
Four Nations at Anfield | Reds on Instagram | Graeme Souness interview | LFC official goodies
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Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine
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Issue 52 December 2016

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FOOTBALL

The stuff that happens on the pitch: exclusive interviews with current Reds stars, the stats that matter plus a few blasts from the past.

CLUB

How the club reaches out to communities at home and abroad, plus stadium news, fab official merchandise, and fan representatives.

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Where Eagles Daren't

Latching onto a precise Jordan Henderson through-ball, Roberto Firmino runs clear before calmly chipping the ball over Steve Mandanda to secure a thrilling 4-2 win over Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park, putting the Reds joint-top of the table.


TOMKINS
5
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Brighter nights

Anfield under the floodlights has always looked boss and now it's even brighter following the installation of new lights on all four stands to improve visability. Ideal for watching Jürgen Klopp's Reds light up the Premier League then...



THIS IS ANFIELD

CHRISTMAS 2016

EXCLUSIVE LFC GIFTS

IN-STORE & ONLINE | LIVERPOOLFC.COM/STORE

LIVERPOOL

The Hollywood actor who just can't get enough of the Reds plus a new Hillsborough single hoping to raise Alder Hey funds



Which of Liverpool FC's first five home games of the season has attracted the highest attendance at Anfield? Answer on p98

"LIVERPOOOOO



"I'D NEVER BEEN TO A MATCH UNTIL I WENT TO LIVERPOOL, THAT'S WHY I'M A FAN"

OOOOOOOOL!!!"

Who tweets that regularly on social media? Why, massive Reds fan Samuel L Jackson of course

He's a man of many words on the silver screen, having starred in movies such as *Pulp Fiction*, *Die Hard With A Vengeance* and *Captain America*, but when Samuel L Jackson tweets about his favourite football team he likes to keep things succinct.

The Hollywood actor has followed the Reds since the late 1990s after attending matches at Anfield while filming scenes for *The 51st State*. "I had never been to a proper football game until I got to Liverpool," he told BBC Radio One in September. "That was like my first football experience so that's why particularly I am a Liverpool fan, that was my introduction to football and I spent a lot of time in the stadium singing *You'll Never Walk Alone*."

Nicknamed the 'King of Cool', he still watches the 'Pool and this season has got into the habit of tweeting 'LIVERPOOOOOOOOOOOOOL!!!' when Jürgen Klopp's team does the business on the pitch. It all started on 17 September 2016 – the day after Dejan Lovren and Jordan Henderson fired Liverpool to a 2-1 victory at Chelsea – and since then Big Sam has tweeted precisely the same message after the Reds beat Hull (5-1), Swansea (2-1), West Brom (2-1) and Crystal Palace (4-2), prompting thousands of retweets and likes.

In 2009 Jackson showed off his love for the Reds by carrying a Liverpool shirt down the red carpet when arriving for a sports awards ceremony in Los Angeles, while in 2015 he took a selfie outside Anfield after driving down to the city while filming a movie up in Blackpool.

In *The 51st State* he played a kilt-wearing American chemist in the crime caper alongside a small-time crook played by Robert Carlyle, on the run from baddies and ending up in an Anfield executive box on matchday.

Scenes were shot in and around the stadium for the movie's denouement, with Scots actor Carlyle, sporting a Liverpool FC scarf along with a passable Scouse accent, at one point saluting the crowd through the Centenary Stand executive-box window, thanks to a dash of post-production special effects.



Big Sam with Little Rob and a chicken wing (we think)

A NEW SONG FOR HILLSBOROUGH

A new charity singled endorsed by the Hillsborough Family Support Group was released last month. *You Would Not Tell Me* is a tribute to the families affected by the tragedy and is available as a free download from www.tuccmusic.com with an option to make a donation to the Alder Hey Children's Charity. It's written, performed and produced by The Ultimate Coffeehouse Collective, a local band based in Liverpool and North Wales. Singer-songwriter John Every says: "The time now seems right to release the single as a fitting tribute to the families, after more than 27 years. It is a token of our esteem for them and hopefully expresses the support of all associated with their cause."



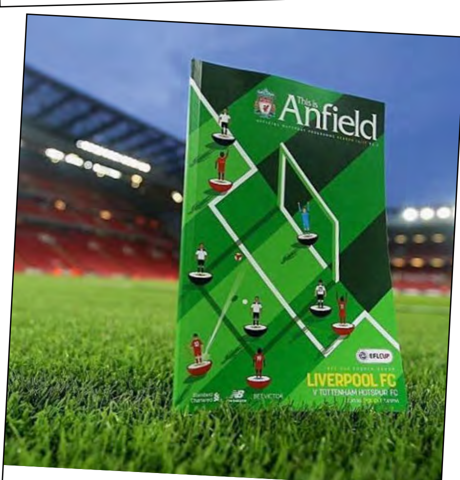
REDS ON INSTAGRAM

Smart suits, Hallowe'en oufits, LFC legends and boss awards…





@leivalucas
🎃 Halloween





@sport_media_tm
Great to see all the comments on our @LFC matchday programme with a subbuteo style cover #programme #subbuteo



@liverpoolfc
A suave line-up! Tag your friend with the best fashion sense... 😎



@stevengerrard
The best number 9 on the planet #mymate



@roberto_firmino
With my BatGirl 🎃



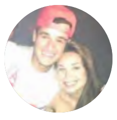
@amplfc18
#lfc #ynwa #focus





@mrs1nil
Lucky me, look at the amazing support I got from the ex players and contributors of the Liverpool Captains book #luckygirl #newbook #athenaeumclub #liverpoolFC





@phil.coutinho
Suicide squad 🎃 #joker #harleyquinn #witch





@liverpoolfc
Brilliant #LoveLFC post! Keep them coming, Reds! 🙌 #LFC



@dejanlovren06
A smile is the light in the window of your soul #YNWA



@ec2323
My mom's comment on the pic "Emre, you have a problem with moth!" Really mom? I mean, are all moms like this? #MomsAreTheBest #YNWA





@lfcretail
Have you checked out the @nbfootball #LFC Performance Collection yet? liverpoolfc.com/store #MadeforLiverpool





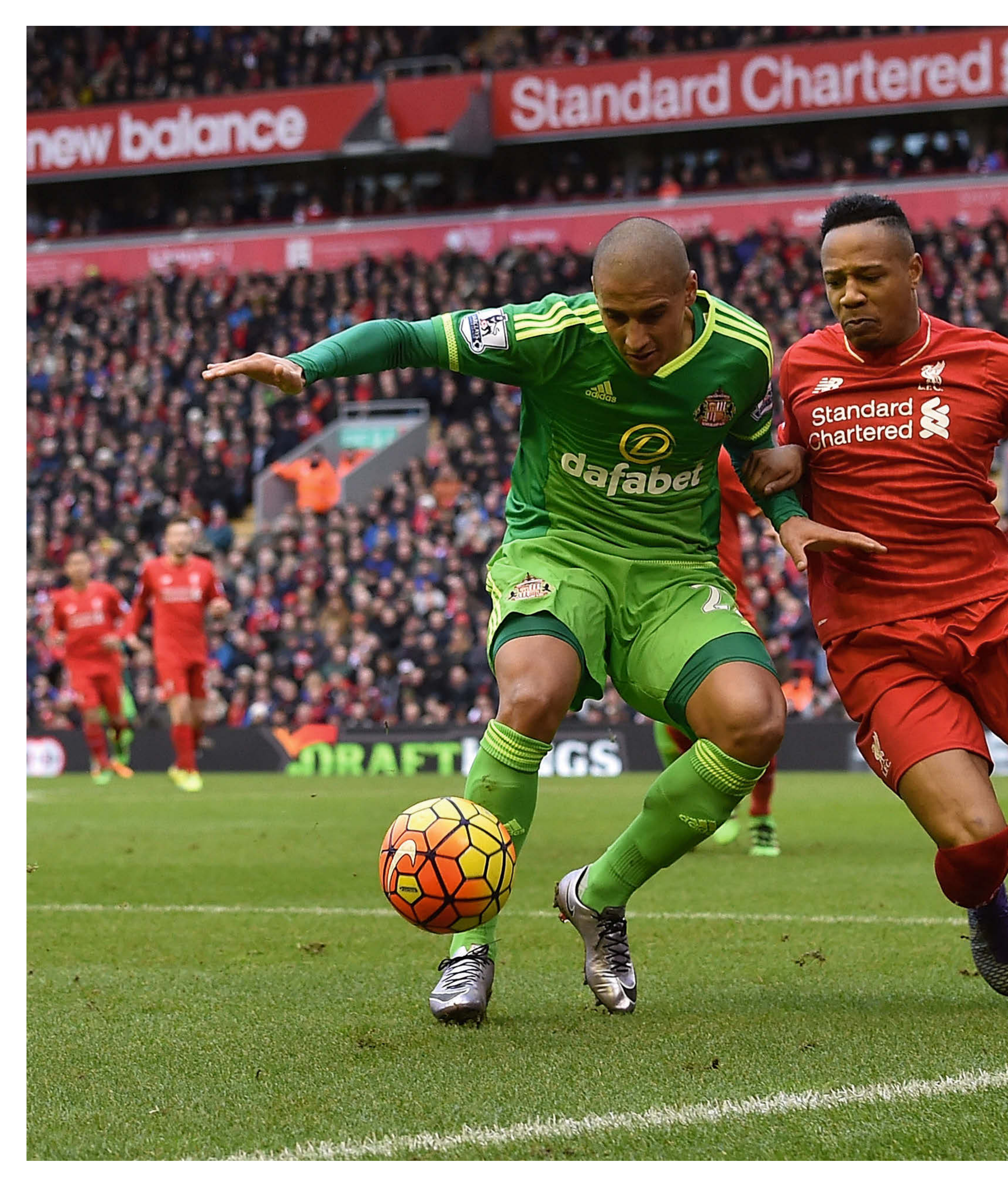
@liverpoolfc
Jürgen Klopp - September's @premierleague Manager of the Month! 🙌 #LFC





@lorisk21
Off we go, next stop: London! Important away game tomorrow! #CPFCLIV #Boys #YNWA #LFC @liverpoolfc

WHAT'S


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NEXT AT ANFIELD...

Sunderland are at Anfield as the Reds complete their Premier League schedule for this month with a game against the Black Cats (Sat 26 November). Jürgen Klopp will be managing a home game v Sunderland for the first time after missing last season's 2-2 draw following an appendix operation. The picture shows Nathaniel Clyne and Wahbi Khazri challenging for the ball in February.



SADIO AT SAINTS

Sadio Mane could make his first return to St Mary's on Saturday 19 November, possibly alongside fellow ex-Southampton players Dejan Lovren, Nathaniel Clyne and Adam Lallana. In this fixture last season Sadio scored twice for the Saints as they recovered from two down to win 3-2 against Liverpool – can he do the trick for the Reds this time round?

U18S HOST UNITED

Neil Critchley's Under-18s team host their Manchester United counterparts at Kirkby on Saturday 19 November hoping to secure a league double over the Red Devils (kick-off 11am). Yan Dhanda was on target twice as the Reds won the corresponding fixture 2-1 at Altrincham's Moss Lane in August.

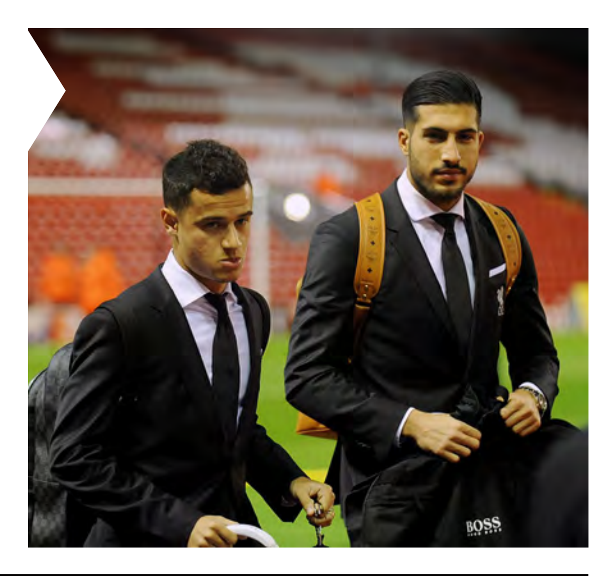
EFL CUP QUARTERS

Leeds United are at Anfield for an EFL Cup quarter-final tie on Tuesday 29 November (7.45pm kick-off) and elsewhere in this issue you can read all about our historic rivalry with the Yorkshiremen. In the other ties Hull City host Newcastle United on Tuesday while it's Arsenal v Southampton and Manchester United v West Ham United the following evening.



AWARDS NIGHT

Liverpool FC players and staff are up for several honours when the 2016 MBNA North-West Football Awards are held at The Point, Old Trafford Cricket Ground on Monday 14 November. Philippe Coutinho is hoping to scoop the Premier League Player of the Year award amid competition from Gareth Barry (Everton), Kevin De Bruyne (Man City) and David De Gea (Man United). Other Reds nominated are: Emre Can (Rising Star of the Year), Shanice Van De Sanden (Women's Player of the Year), Niamh Charles (Women's Rising Star of the Year) and Kathryn Wise (Outstanding Service to Football Medicine and Science).



Birthdays and anniversaries



John Barnes 53 on 7 November
Patrik Berger 43 on 10 November
Ryan Kent 20 on 11 November
Gini Wijnaldum 26 on 11 November
Ron Yeats 79 on 12 November
Ovie Ejaria 19 on 18 November
Jack Dunn 22 on 19 November
Bobby Graham 72 on 22 November
Jim Furnell 79 on 23 November
Steve Heighway 69 on 25 November
Xabi Alonso 35 on 25 November
Ian Ross 69 on 26 November
Peter Thompson 74 on 27 November
Phil Babb 46 on 30 November

1 year since Liverpool FC's first away win under Jürgen Klopp, 4-1 at Manchester City on Saturday 21 November 2015.
9 years since the Reds beat Besiktas 8-0 in the Champions League on 6 November 2007.
40 years since Joey Jones made his LFC debut on 9 November 1976.
46 years since John Toshack joined from Cardiff on 11 November 1970.
64 years since Ronnie Moran, a future Boot Room boy, made his LFC debut on 22 November 1952.

Liverpool's 8-0 group-stage win over Besiktas at Anfield nine years ago was the biggest margin of victory in a Champions League game until Real Madrid equalled it in their group game against Malmo last season.

Goals from striker Peter Crouch on 19 and 89 minutes bookended the scoring spree, with Yossi Benayoun (right) claiming a hat-trick and Ryan Babel (2) and Steven Gerrard also on target against the team from Istanbul. Overall Liverpool had 20 shots on target to one for the visitors.

After the game Reds boss Rafael Benitez said: "We try to win trophies and be in the record books, but if you can't win trophies at least you have a record and that's a positive thing. We needed to score and when we scored the first goal they had to go forward and it was easier for our strikers."

Liverpool finished second in Group A behind Porto, and ahead of Marseille and Besiktas. It meant a last-16 tie with Inter Milan, won 3-0 on aggregate. There followed a 4-2 win over Arsenal in the quarter-finals, then a 4-3 defeat to Chelsea who would lose to Manchester United on penalties in the Moscow final.



FIXTURES 2016/2017

AUGUST		
Sun 14	Arsenal (A)	4-3
Sat 20	Burnley (A)	0-2
Tue 23	Burton (A, EFL2)	5-0
Sat 27	Tottenham H (A)	1-1
SEPTEMBER		
Sat 10	Leicester City (H)	4-1
Fri 16	Chelsea (A)	2-1
Tue 20	Derby (A, EFL3)	3-0
Sat 24	Hull City (H)	5-1
OCTOBER		
Sat 1	Swansea City (A)	2-1
Mon 17	Manchester Utd (H)	0-0
Sat 22	West Brom (H)	2-1
Tue 25	Tottenham (H, EFL4)	2-1
Sat 29	Crystal Palace (A)	4-2
NOVEMBER		
Sun 6	Watford (H, 2.15pm)	
Sat 19	Southampton (A, 3pm)	
Sat 26	Sunderland (H, 3pm)	
Tue 29	Leeds Utd (H, EFL5, 7.45pm)	
DECEMBER		
Sun 4	Bournemouth (A, 1.30pm)	
Sun 11	West Ham United (H, 4.30pm)	
Wed 14	Middlesbrough (A, 7.45pm)	
Mon 19	Everton (A, 8pm)	
Tue 27	Stoke City (H, 5.15pm)	
Sat 31	Manchester City (H, 5.30pm)	
JANUARY		
Mon 2	Sunderland (A, 7.45pm)	
7/8	Emirates FA Cup R3	
10/11	EFL Cup SF 1L	
Sun 15	Manchester Utd (A, 4pm)	
Sat 21	Swansea City (H, 12.30pm)	
24/25	EFL Cup SF 2L	
28/29	Emirates FA Cup R4	
Tue 31	Chelsea (H, 8pm)	
FEBRUARY		
Sat 4	Hull City (A, 3pm)	
Sat 11	Tottenham Hotspur (H, 3pm)	
18/19	Emirates FA Cup R5	
Sat 25	Leicester City (A, 3pm)	
Sun 26	EFL Cup final	
MARCH		
Sat 4	Arsenal (H, 3pm)	
Sun 12	Burnley (H, 4pm)/FAC 6	
Sat 18	Manchester City (A, 3pm)	
APRIL		
Sat 1	Everton (H, 3pm)	
Wed 5	Bournemouth (H, 8pm)	
Sat 8	Stoke City (A, 3pm)	
Sun 16	West Brom (A, 3pm)	
Sat 22	Crystal Palace (H, 3pm)	
22/23	Emirates FA Cup SF	
Sat 29	Watford (A, 3pm)	
MAY		
Sat 6	Southampton (H, 3pm)	
Sat 13	West Ham United (A, 3pm)	
Sun 21	Middlesbrough (H, 3pm)	
Sat 27	Emirates FA Cup final	

(LFC score shown first, all dates/KO times subject to change)



FOOTBAL

Henderson, Klavan and Krawietz exclusives plus more on LFC's leaders, a classic rivalry and soundbites from the boss...

Can you recall how many men captained Liverpool during the 2015/16 season and can you name them? Was the total: (a) 8 (b) 9 or (c) 10? Answer on p98

WHAT A MOVE!

The story behind some of those fab Liverpool FC goal celebrations


Wesley Safadao

Look out for more smooth Liverpool goal celebrations this season: according to Brazilian duo Roberto Firmino and Philippe Coutinho, and Senegalese attacker Sadio Mane, we ain't seen nothing yet.

Word has it, the mastermind behind the moves is Firmino, whose inspiration is Brazilian singer Wesley Safadao and in particular his hand gestures for the hit *Fala aqui com a minha mao* – literally 'Talk here with my hand'. After celebrating a recent goal for his country during an international break, Roberto told Brazilian website Globo Sporte: "I'm a fan of Safadao.

"I love his songs and decided to make a tribute. No singing, though, the only similarity between us is maybe our hairstyles!"

Of his routines back at club-level with Coutinho and Sadio, he explains:

"Altogether now…"


"To the left…"

"IT WAS A NEW DANCE AND COUTINHO AND FIRMINO TRIED TO TEACH IT TO ME – I LOVE IT!"

"Whenever there is a new song out we'll try to rehearse something so when one of us scores a goal we can celebrate it together. I find this a nice thing between team-mates to show the friendship between us, I try to do this whenever I can."

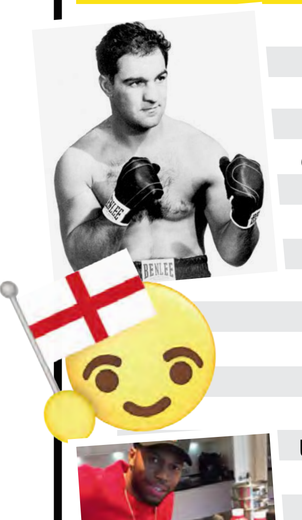
Team-mate Mane adds: "It's something that we have practised for fun before the games. Against West Bromwich Albion [when both he and Coutinho scored] it was a new Brazilian dance and Philippe and Roberto tried to teach me it. I think I know now how to dance it and I love it! The main teacher is Firmino – he taught me all the moves."


"And then do this…"

GO COMPARE




DANIEL STURRIDGE		DIVOCK ORIGI
Dialing true reds	ANAGRAM	I go void Rick
18	SCRABBLE SCORE	22
Chelsea	SIGNED FROM	Lille
15	SHIRT NUMBER	27
@iamdanielsturridge	INSTAGRAM	@divockorigi
2.6m	INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS	709k
101/57	LFC GAMES/GOALS	44/12
1 September 1989	BORN	18 April 1995
Rocky Marciano	SHARES BIRTHDAY WITH	Kourtney Kardashian
Virgo	STAR SIGN	Aries
Wriggly arm dance	GOAL CELEBRATION	Different every time
Hockley, Birmingham	HOOD	Belgium
v San Marino (2013)	FIRST INTERNATIONAL GOAL	v Russia (2014)
Uncles Dean & Simon	OTHER FAMILY FOOTBALLERS	Dad Mike & 3 uncles
1 (Sturr Crazy)	COOKING SAUCES	0
0	DOLPHINS NAMED AFTER HIM	1 (at Boudewijn Seapark)

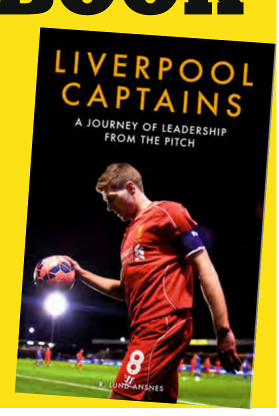



WIN THIS CAPTAINS BOOK

We've got three copies of the fab new book Liverpool Captains to give away. Written by Ragnhild Lund Ansnes and published by DeCoubertin Books (£18.99) it interviews 16 former LFC skippers and analyses how the role of captain has changed over the last half-century.
To be in with a chance of winning a copy, simply answer the following question and email it with your contact details to: **liverpoolfcmag@trinitymirror.com** with **CAPTAINS BOOK COMPO** in the title bar.

WHO, AS SKIPPER ON THE DAY, LIFTED THE FA CUP FOR LIVERPOOL IN 1989? (a) Steve Nicol (b) Steve McMahon (c) Ronnie Whelan

The closing date is Friday 9 December 2016 and winners will be notified soon after. Usual terms and conditions apply.



SAMMY SMYTH

Everyone connected with LFC was saddened to learn about the death of Sammy Smyth last month at the age of 91. Belfast-born Sammy was believed to have been Liverpool's oldest living player before his passing at his home on the Cayman Islands on 19 October.

He joined Liverpool from Stoke City for £12,000 in December 1952 and spent two seasons playing in a struggling Liverpool team under Don Welsh, scoring 20 goals in 44 appearances before leaving following the club's relegation from the top flight.

Sammy had also been the last surviving member of the Wolverhampton Wanderers team that won the FA Cup in 1949, getting the winner in front of 98,920 spectators when he dribbled from the halfway line and smashed home to secure a 3-1 win over Leicester City. He also played nine times for Northern Ireland, scoring five times.


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SKIPPER'S NOTES

Captain Jordan Henderson talks unity, focus, intensity, ambition and the power of Anfield Road

It does feel like we're fitter and stronger this season as a group of players...

Pre-season this year was very much based on the training pitch which is the most important thing, with double and treble sessions on a lot of days. The aim of that was to ensure that physically we are at our best. The food was tremendous, too. I have to mention that. Mona Nemmer and Andreas Kornmayer, who run all that side of things, are top-drawer and make sure we as players get the right sort of stuff on board such as proteins and fluids.

So, for me, it was probably the best pre-season I've done. It was also the best I've felt going into a season. I think that work over those few weeks in the summer has given us a real good base and a platform to build on. We've gone from strength to strength since then and need to maintain that intensity every time we take to the field.

Each day in training feels like a proper match-situation...

Training is brilliant. It's very intense, like it always should be. It's like a game-situation every day. I think that gives all of the players confidence



Full-throttle against West Brom at Anfield



when we do go in to a game then, because we all know that we've worked really hard and just need to implement our game-plan. If we do execute properly what we've prepared before matchday, that puts us in a good place and gives us a real chance of winning every time.

The other good thing about training is that there are so many quality players at this football club. It means that working with them each and every day helps every one of us to improve as players and members of the team. We have a good squad here and that will be needed throughout the season, everybody will have a part to play.

There is a real togetherness within the squad and we fight for each other...

In the summer of course there were quite a few additions to the group. You are with each other every day when you are away on pre-season and one of the things we worked on was the team-spirit.

Some of the new lads have had to sing a song before a team meal as part of their initiation into the group! Surprisingly, most of them did pretty well. Actually there were even a few who were quite good, but I won't name names.

On message with the boss


YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
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new balance





That Marko Grujic moment at Chelsea

"FITNESS, TALENT, TECHNIQUE, PACE AND POWER… IT'S ALL THERE IN THIS GROUP OF PLAYERS"

This is a great group, we all get on very well. I think having that togetherness away from the pitch is a big part of being a team. If you have that, it definitely means that you are better prepared to go on the pitch and fight for each other. And I expect that spirit, that bond, to get even better the more time we all spend working together.

It's a young squad here at Liverpool, too, with so much talent and ability...
I look around this group and I see a lot of young and talented players. They are fit physically and can do everything that we need them to do. I think all of the lads are looking really strong and that's vital because it's a big part of how we want to play.

It's not just about fitness, though. We have huge amounts of talent to go with that. Technique, pace, power: it's all there in this group of players. We just need to keep listening to what the manager and his staff are saying in each session and then do what they demand on the weekend. I feel if we do that then we'll be successful.

It's been brilliant to be involved in some of our football his season...
Obviously the results are the huge thing – clearly that's the most important side of football if you want to be successful. But for us performances are important too. We evaluate every performance afterwards and look at what we could do better or what we have done well. A lot of games this season we feel we've done plenty well and we're trying to improve in the areas that haven't been so good. The challenge now is to carry that on right up until the end of the season.

In every match we'll keep going to the end with the supporters behind us...
I think because of the way we started the season that teams will come and try to defend and break up the play: they'll want to disrupt our rhythm as much as possible. But that's part-and-parcel of football – teams might see that as the best way to get a point, or three, against us. We have to be prepared to face that scenario and, when we do come up against it, find the solution to get a win. It's about momentum and keeping it going by retaining the ball well and ensuring the pressure stays on them.

I also think in those situations a big part of dealing with opponents who want to keep it tight is about patience from everybody, both us players and our fans. The fans always get behind us and in games like that you probably need them to drive you on even more. If they get too impatient or frustrated that can transmit to the pitch. We all have to keep going and continue to be positive because a goal might come in the last five minutes or the last minute. When we score doesn't matter because it still gets us a result. You have to keep pushing and believing, no matter what the scoreline is.

One thing is true: you're only as good as your next game...
Fans naturally get excited and talk about where we could finish or what we could win. As players we don't do that. It's still very early in the season and the manager said it best when he said you don't get anything for being in the top four in October. It might be a cliche but my approach has always been that the next game is your most important. I think that's a good mentality and one that all of us share. At the end of the season let's see where that takes us.

Marko Grujic's reaction to my goal at Chelsea was just priceless!
Obviously, I didn't see it at the time because I was out on the pitch. But he showed us later and we were all laughing about it. I'm hoping we'll see that same reaction to lots more special moments for the team again during the season.



FIVE YEARS

Jordan Henderson's LFC story since he was signed by Kenny Dalglish on 9 June 2011...



2011/12 Plays in more matches, 48 out of a possible 51, than anyone else in the Reds squad; scores in final home game of the season, a 4-1 win over Chelsea; called up for England's Euro 2012 squad and makes two apps as a sub.



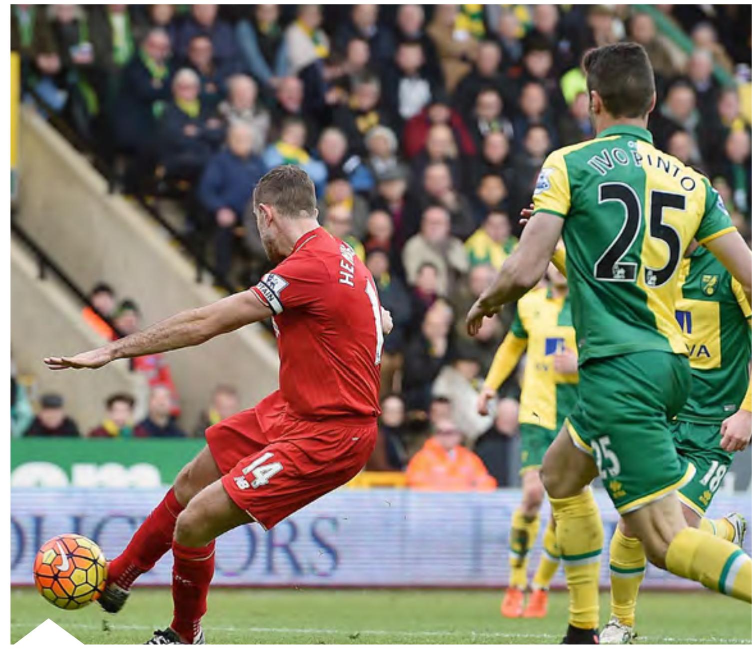
2012/13 Under new Reds manager Brendan Rodgers scores his first goal in European competition, at Udinese; also on target twice in 6-0 win at Newcastle; named England's Under-21 player of the year.



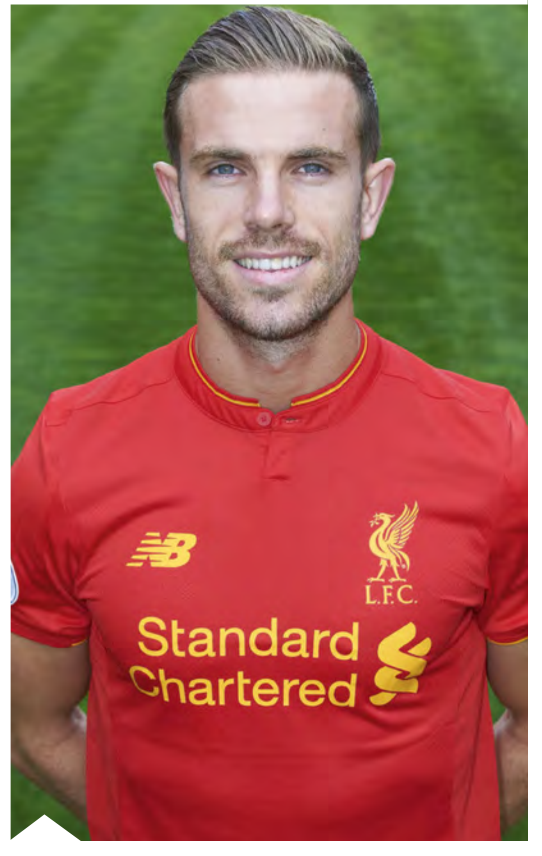
2013/14 Makes his 100th Liverpool FC appearance at old club Sunderland in Sept 2013; sorely missed during the title race's denouement after his red card in the 3-2 win over Manchester City; plays twice for England in the 2014 World Cup finals in Brazil (above).



2014/15 Confirmed as Liverpool vice-captain in Sept 2014; scores seven goals including one on his 150th appearance for the Reds, a 3-1 win at Leicester City in December, and a belter at home to Manchester City; signs five-year contract extension with the club.



2015/16 Confirmed as skipper in July 2015; his goal in the 5-4 win at Norwich City in January is his 19th in the Premier League overall for the Reds; damages ligaments in Europa League at Borussia Dortmund; returns five weeks later at West Brom; turns 26 on 17 June.



2016/17 Scores one of the goals of the season at Chelsea; captains England for the first time; ex-Red Xabi Alonso says: "Jordan is becoming a very important player"; Joel Matip adds: "He's the leader, a great player on the field but also off it."


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We Embrace Difference Regardless.

Liverpool Football Club would like all supporters to experience an environment free from any forms of discrimination.

If you witness any anti-social or discriminatory behaviour, we ask you to report this to your nearest steward in confidence or you can

text **+44 (0)7479 638022**

providing details of the incident and the location in the stadium.

The Club will investigate all complaints.

We thank you for your continued support.

You'll Never Walk Alone

CLUB&COUNTRY

Jordan Henderson is the latest in an illustrious line of Liverpool FC players to also captain England


Ephraim: the first

Ephraim Longworth: the first Liverpool player to captain England, he was a right-back for the Reds team that reached the 1914 FA Cup final and won back-to-back league titles in 1922 and 1923. His England debut came against Scotland in 1920 at the age of 32 and he wore the captain's armband against Belgium a year later.

Tommy Lucas: St Helens-born defender who signed for Liverpool in 1916 and competed with Longworth for a full-back berth. Led his country out against Belgium in a 5-3 victory in 1926.

Emlyn Hughes: 'Crazy Horse' was named England skipper a month after leading Liverpool to victory in the FA Cup final of 1974. Succeeding the great Bobby Moore, he led his country in a 2-0 win over Wales in Cardiff, and did so a further 22 times.

Kevin Keegan: won 29 England caps during his six years at Liverpool and was first selected as skipper for a game with Wales in 1976. It was a role he retained after he moved to Hamburg then Southampton.

Phil Thompson: "I regard Phil as one of the best possible examples of a true professional," was Bob Paisley's verdict on the Kirkby lad. England manager Ron Greenwood clearly felt the same way: he chose Thommo for skipper on half-a-dozen occasions between 1979 and 1982.

Ray Clemence: a few weeks before he left Anfield at the conclusion of the 1980/81 season, Clem was handed the England armband for a Wembley friendly with Brazil. It would be his only time as Three Lions captain.



Stevie: the most

Clem: just once

Beardo: the old one too

Kev: Seventies skipper

Phil Neal: in an era of Liverpool domestic and European dominance, the right-back followed Reds team-mates Emlyn Hughes, Kevin Keegan, Phil Thompson and Ray Clemence as England captain, in June 1982 for a 1-1 draw with Iceland.

Peter Beardsley: another to lead out England just once, the ace inside-forward did so in a scoreless draw away to Israel in 1988 during Bobby Robson's tenure as boss.

Paul Ince: held the captaincy for club and country after he joined Liverpool from Inter Milan in the summer of 1997. A few months later he led England to a famous scoreless draw with Italy in Rome – all backs-to-the-wall and bloodied white shirts – which secured qualification for the World Cup finals in France the following year.

Michael Owen: enjoyed the thrill of leading out his country at Anfield for a friendly with Paraguay in the build-up to the 2002 World Cup – and duly hit the target only three minutes into his new role in a 4-0 win for the Three Lions. He would fill the same role on five more occasions during his time as a Reds striker.

Steven Gerrard: led the national team 38 times in his 144-cap career, including games in the 2010 World Cup finals and 2012 Euros. Only four other individuals have been England skipper on more occasions.

James Milner: retired from international football after the Euros last summer, but the previous March he led the side for a friendly with Holland at Wembley.


Millie: captain last March

"I TRY TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE"

Gemma Bonner wears the armband for Liverpool Ladies and insists she's still learning all the time

Gemma Bonner has become the face of Liverpool Ladies over the past four seasons. Almost as soon as she signed for the Reds in the winter of 2012, the defender was appointed captain by manager Matt Beard who recognised leadership qualities in the talented centre-half despite her being only 21 at the time.

She went on to repay that faith by lifting the FA Women's Super League trophy in her first two seasons with the club. She then guided the team through a difficult 2015 which saw the Reds plagued by injuries. She ended the year on crutches herself after suffering ankle-ligament damage in a Champions League tie at Brescia.

Back to full fitness this season, she's been at her best in the heart of the Reds' back-four as a new-look line-up has secured a top-half finish in the FA WSL, and Gemma feels she is growing in the role every day. "I try to lead by example and to be a role-model," she explains. "I'm not the type who shouts and bawls but if I see something that needs addressing, I'm not afraid to say something.

"I like to think I am somebody who is approachable to all the girls and I particularly try and make a point of helping the younger players when they come into the team because it is always a big step-up to first-team level.

"Generally you find that there are some girls who need an arm around their shoulders from time to time, but we have quite a lot of experience in our team despite it being a young squad. Sophie Ingle [Wales] and Mandy van den Berg [Holland] captain their national teams so the younger players and newcomers have that experience to draw on as well. At 25 I'm still quite a young captain so I like to think I'm learning all the time."

The problems the team encountered in 2015 led to Gemma's toughest time as skipper, with various factors contributing to a tough campaign which saw the Reds finish one place off the bottom of the table. "Those are the times when you feel the weight of the captaincy on your shoulders," she says. "When things aren't going well you tend to feel it personally and almost feel as though you are responsible. Having an injury myself at the back end of the year and being unable to contribute on the pitch equally made it a tough time.

"Steven Gerrard is someone I have always admired. He was a great captain for Liverpool and I remember reading in his autobiography that, for all the difficult moments, the good times far outweigh the bad and I think that's definitely true."

Gemma is also full of admiration for the man who now has the men's armband, Jordan Henderson. "It's obviously a massive job to take on but I think he is doing it very well. You can see his strength of character in the way he has turned things around at Liverpool, from joining the club as a young player to becoming captain and also a key member of the team. To then get the recognition to recently captain his country he is someone I can definitely learn from myself."



Champions!


Gemma in training

Gemma's own leadership qualities have been appreciated by Scott Rogers who stepped up from assistant-boss to manager at the end of last season. "Gem's our leader," he says. "At 25 she's still learning the game but she is technically very good and sets the standards very high. In terms of defending, I think she's one of the best in the country. It's fantastic to have her as our captain. She is a great role model and an inspiration to the other girls."

Team-mates Katie Zelem and Caroline Weir agree. "First of all, she's a really good player to have around," says Katie. "She's experienced at this club and has played for other big teams too and she's also played international football, so even at such a young age she has experience in big games. Then she's such a nice person too. She's so welcoming and friendly especially with the new girls and the younger ones. She makes an effort and always looks out for the team."

Caroline adds: "She's easy to chat to. If you've got an issue, you can easily go and talk to her about it. She's not the loudest of people on or off the park, but she really leads by example.

"Of the captains I have played with, she is one of my favourites."



"STEVEN GERRARD SAID THE GOOD TIMES OUTWEIGH THE BAD AND THAT'S DEFINITELY TRUE"

BAND OF BROTHERS

From great Scots to Scouse power: a roll call of Liverpool Football Club's finest captains over the last 125 years

Alex Raisbeck

Liverpool FC's first superstar and the Steven Gerrard of his day – albeit with a Scots accent – he was poached from Stoke City in 1898 and gave the Reds eleven seasons of sterling service in the middle of defence. Capped eight times by Scotland (one of his international shirts is held at the club museum), he captained Liverpool to a first top-flight title in 1901, and another in 1906.

In 1924, fifteen years after he'd left Liverpool, the Echo remembered him thus: "What a trier he was! Whoever saw him play can never forget the unmatchable enthusiasm which he displayed in the sheer love of the game. He not only put body and dash into individual games he played, but more importantly he helped to create the soul, that inward sacred fire of zeal without which no club can thrive and live.

"Let us recall his characteristics. Tall, lithe, sinuous, and yet gifted with muscular and physical development beyond the ordinary. Active to a degree, speed either on the turn or in flight…methodical in training, painstaking in preparation, genial with his players and considerate with his committee. With a perfect blending of the qualities that make a really great player!

"There may be and may have been others so gifted. We have not seen them. His judgement was sound, his valour outstanding and, naturally for a half-back, his control and placing of the ball was confident… His temperament rarely failed him, no matter how vigorous the play he had to meet."

"HE NOT ONLY PUT BODY AND DASH INTO GAMES, HE HELPED TO CREATE A SOUL"





Don Mackinlay

The fabulous photograph above, dating from around May 1923, shows the Liverpool first team huddled around skipper Donald Mackinlay and the old League Championship trophy, won for the second successive season and the fourth time in the club's history.

Scottish defender McKinlay enjoyed one of the longest careers of any Liverpool FC player, making his debut

Don Mackinlay with the title-winners of 1923

at the age of eighteen in 1910 and playing his last game 18 years later. He'd been a losing finalist with the team in the 1914 FA Cup final [against Burnley] but recovered to skipper the side to those successive titles in 1922 and 1923.

He was predominantly used as a left-back but could also operate at wing-half, centre-half and across the forward line. He finally bowed out after 433 appearances for the club.



Willie Fagan

The Scot who led the side to the first post-war English league title, in 1946/47. A strong and skilful inside-forward who could also operate through the middle, flame-haired Fagan had cost the Reds £8,000 – then a record for a teenager – when he arrived from Preston North End. He was a frequent goalscorer and a popular choice to take the armband when Matt Busby departed in 1945.





Ron Yeats
One of Bill Shankly's early signings (eight weeks after Ian St John in 1961), the giant Scottish centre-back took over the captain's armband in 1961 and remained as skipper until the end of the decade. In that time he led the team to promotion from the old Second Division and then to two top-flight titles, the first in 1964 pictured here. He was also the first Liverpool captain to lift the FA Cup in 1965 and led the Reds in their first European adventures. And it was Big Ron who first modelled the new all-red kit, in 1964, with Shankly proclaiming it made his players "look ten feet taller."



"TOMMY TOOK OVER FROM RON YEATS WHILE EMLYN WENT ON TO SKIPPER ENGLAND"

Tommy Smith and Emlyn Hughes

A feud over the captaincy, specifically how it passed from one to another in the summer of 1973, sadly meant that these two Liverpool greats kept their distance when their playing careers finished. Here they're pictured in earlier, more cordial days, sitting on a Paddock wall of Anfield's old Main Stand in 1969.

Tough-tackling Tommy was the local lad who came through the ranks to succeed Ron Yeats as the team's leader. He skippered the team for three seasons, guiding them to a double of league and UEFA Cup in 1972/73. Manager Bill Shankly famously said that Smith hadn't been born – "he was quarried". A hard man, sure, but a great footballer too.

Emlyn was originally an all-action midfielder but eventually moved back into defence. The story goes that when Shanks was driving his young new signing from Blackpool back to Anfield in 1967 he was stopped for having a defective rear-light and told the policeman: "Don't you know who I've got in this car? The captain of England!" The copper said he didn't recognise the passenger, to which Shankly replied: "No, but you will."

Emlyn did indeed go on to skipper his country. And of course he became the first man to lift the European Cup for Liverpool, in 1977 and 1978, and captained the team to two league titles, one FA Cup and a UEFA Cup.



Phil Thompson

Another local lad charged with leading the team, and a central defender who always wore his heart on his sleeve.

His two-year stint with the armband, starting in April 1979, brought further success to the club in the shape of a third European Cup, league titles number 11 and 12 and a first League Cup in 1981. Liverpool manager Bob Paisley once said: "I regard Phil as one of the best possible examples of a true professional."

'Thommo' was at the recent launch of new book *Liverpool Captains* and told a rapt audience: "It is a great moment in your life when you get the nod to be captain of Liverpool Football Club. My nod came from Bob Paisley when we played Arsenal at Anfield in April 1979. It was an emotional day for me.

"An hour before kick-off Bob gave me the captaincy. He never said to me that he saw me as a Liverpool captain, he just said 'You're captain today, Phil'. I was enormously proud. I couldn't speak to my mam and dad as it was just before kick-off, but I thought to myself: yeah, I'm ready for this.

"In those days we didn't go out and warm up on the pitch, we just went out five minutes before kick-off. At Anfield we always made sure we



IT'S A youthful Phil Thompson (left) in his early days at Liverpool. . .this picture was taken as he was making his way through the reserve side and aiming to become a first-team regular. As a boy, he stood on the Kop, and dreamed not only of the day he would wear the famous jersey, but even skipper the side. Two ambitions he fulfilled.

CAPTAIN OF LIVERPOOL

What it means to me...

By PHIL THOMPSON

NOW IT'S 300 GAMES UP...

WINNING a duel against Bristol City's Tom Ritchie (left); hammering a goal against Stoke City (below, left); and proudly holding aloft the Charity Shield at Wembley, as Liverpool's skipper (above). . .that's Phil Thompson.

Thommo collecting the European Cup in 1981

were out first as we wanted to be at the Kop end. On this day though, at about ten-to-three, I'm saying to the lads in the dressing-room: 'Come on, we need to get out there now!' They knew what was happening.

"I knew that my brother Owen would be on the Kop in the same spot where I used to stand, and I'd go down to the 'D' of the penalty-area at that end and wave to him before every game. So I'm pacing around the dressing-room and about seven minutes before kick-off I'm thinking: I don't want Arsenal to get out there before us. So I'm shouting: 'Lads, please, can we go out?!' They finally agreed.

"So I'm in the tunnel with Graeme Souness, Kenny Dalglish, Terry McDermott and Ray Clemence behind me. I walk down the steps, touch the *This Is Anfield* sign, walk up the other couple of steps and I can hear the clattering of the lads' studs behind me. I jog out onto the Anfield pitch and as I'm getting closer to the Kop I'm looking for Owen. I get into the 'D' and spot him, but when I'm waving to him I suddenly realise loads of fans on the Kop are laughing. I'm thinking: what's going on here?

"JUST AN HOUR BEFORE KICK-OFF BOB TOLD ME I WAS CAPTAIN, I THOUGHT: I'M READY FOR THIS"

"I turn around and there's Souness, Dalglish and McDermott stood at the end of the tunnel killing themselves laughing because they'd let me run half-way down the pitch on my own!

"It was still a great day for me, though, a proud moment, and we won 3-0. I felt like it was my destiny to captain Liverpool."





Souness: born to lead

Graeme Souness

The following is an exclusive extract from Ragnhild Lund Ansnes' new book Liverpool Captains: A Journey of Leadership from the Pitch…

December 1981. shooting exercise at Melwood. Graeme Souness leans against the goalpost and teases the players who are testing their new goalkeeper, Bruce Grobbelaar. Souness is struggling with an injured ankle but still comes to training. As training continues Bob Paisley strolls over to him. He has an unexpected proposition. "Would you like to be the new captain?"

Souness was not expecting that. Liverpool have been flailing in the league and a 3–1 home defeat to Manchester City on Boxing Day has left them in twelfth. But there had not been the slightest hint about a change of leadership.

"Yes, of course I would, but I think a couple of others are in front of me," Souness replies, still leaning against the post. He is thinking primarily of Kenny Dalglish and Phil Neal, who are both older than him and have been there longer. He believes Paisley should consider them first. "No, no! I want you to be the new captain!" Paisley says, adamantly. "What?! Okay, yes, I'd love to be captain."

Many of the former Liverpool captains interviewed in this book consider Graeme Souness to be Liverpool's greatest captain and, indeed, the greatest midfielder in Liverpool's history.

Having been fed steaks as pre-match meals and rehydrated afterwards in the players' lounge, Souness – at the height of his powers – moved to Italy and picked up a lot of new ideas, helping him understand what it takes to make footballers more athletic. He brought these back with him when he returned to Merseyside as manager in 1991. With that arrival came new training methods and new diets; ways to make you a better footballer, ways that were a little too innovative for Britain at the time. Not least a traditional club like Liverpool.

Souness does not do half-measures. He throws himself fully into projects or not at all. He has always expected others to embrace the same attitude. An extremely popular Liverpool player,

"THE ONLY DIFFERENCE WAS I WORE THE ARMBAND AND WAS FIRST OUT OF THE TUNNEL"

he was not viewed in the same way as a manager. Graeme Souness seldom gives interviews about this period, a time from which his reputation has never fully recovered…

That day in December 1981 when Souness was asked to take over as captain, the situation was different from the continued success he had so far encountered in his four years at Anfield. The team was in a crisis, down in twelfth place in the league. Yet with Souness as captain, the fortunes of the team shifted. Looking back now, he swears he did nothing different to his predecessor Phil Thompson, aside from being the first one on the pitch instead of the last. Yet somehow he led his team from mid-table to the League Championship in half a season. So something must have happened. Something crucial.

Although now, all these years later, Thompson says Paisley did the right thing, that his performance had dropped, and that he took on too much responsibility as captain, at the time he was left heartbroken and furious by the decision to strip him of the captaincy. Souness, however, was without remorse. "That was none of my problem," he says now. "I can honestly look back and say...that I never thought about how disappointed he must have been. Maybe it sounds harsh or insensitive, but I can't recall giving him a second thought.

"He's a local boy. This was the club he'd played for since he was fifteen or something like that. Maybe the responsibility was too much for him. I only got to the club when I was a man. But any way you look at it, our manager did the right thing."

He remains adamant that nothing changed in him when he became captain. "I didn't go through any obvious changes, no. The only difference was, I was the first one out the tunnel, and I wore the captain's armband. Did it change the way I played? I don't think so. Did it change me as a person? Did I become more vocal? I doubt it. Did I change in the dressing-room or in training? I think the answer to both is no. Back then we didn't fully understand the



Graeme with Captains author Ragnhild Lund Ansnes



responsibility of becoming captain, and what it actually meant to be captain for one of the most important football teams in the world. In that area football has changed dramatically. In my time, even though I captained both Scotland and Liverpool, I was never asked my opinion in the dressing-room or in meetings. That was coach and manager territory."

But didn't you give messages to the players? "No! When I got the responsibility all Joe [Fagan] said was, 'Do your own job'. If that went well, and I had time, I could help the others. But I had to do my own job first."

When pressed again, he finally admits one small change: as captain he had to deal with criticism amongst the other players if Liverpool had played a bad match. Although that did not happen a lot during his captaincy, the turnaround after he took over as leader on the pitch was spectacular. Liverpool went on to an incredible, point-collecting run that would have knocked the wind out of any opponent.

Can you explain this? Was it how you led and inspired the players with your own performance and attitude?

"I've no idea! I can't remember changing anything"…

I am still trying to figure out what else is needed to become a captain and player of Souness' stature. But Souness is not giving anything away. He is tough as nails when the conversation turns to his role as captain, because of his solemn conviction that he was no different as a captain than as a player.

"Please don't try..." he says, surprisingly modest, and gives me a smile. It prompts me to laugh. Perhaps his initial short answers reveal Souness's modest side and, indeed, a contrast to his public image.

Well, you're obviously stubborn too, and stubbornness can be a driving force to perform well, but can it also be a challenge when you're a leader? That you want one thing, and are determined to see it through, even if the rest of the team wants something different? "It stems from my childhood. I was spoiled rotten, and got used to getting my way, and it sticks with you the rest of your life." He smiles.

What about your temper, you've always had "... a ridiculous temper, yes." How has it been, living with that? "I'm over it now. I'm older, wiser, and on medication. The medicine is for my blood pressure, I've got heart trouble. No, I think you learn from your mistakes. If you don't, you're a fool. I was foolish and stubborn. It helped me in my time as a player, but not so much as manager... I was extremely confrontational"…

[Bob] Paisley gave surprisingly little instruction to his captains. He never gave Souness any orders to pass on to the rest of the team. They were simple, almost trite comments, like: "Go out and see if you can win the toss today" or "If you're having a good day, help someone else." This was the mantra for everyone on the pitch. If you have a good day, let it benefit your team-mates, put in that extra for them.

When I ask him what it feels like to walk up those steps first, as captain, and lift the trophy in front of a sea of people, his answer surprises me.

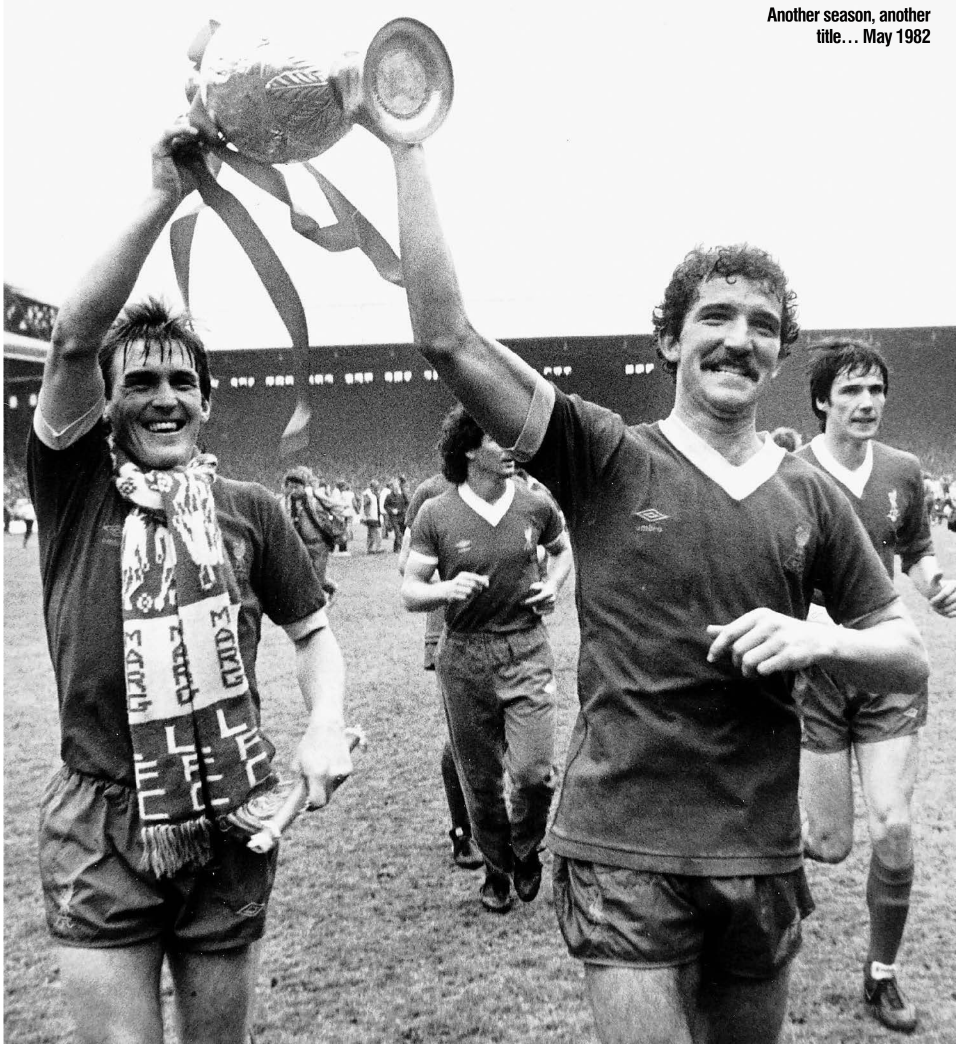
"There was no difference going up first, as captain, nobody was better than the next man. You made a career at Liverpool, you became a senior player and it was expected that you were just like your peers. When Ronnie [Moran] was upset with us he'd call us 'bigheads'. In Liverpool it was expected that you didn't think you were bigger than the team, that you were considerate of your team-mates."

It finally dawns on me why he has been so short and reserved in his answers to questions of his captaincy. He played at a time when Liverpool's players were drilled with the notion that they were all equal, and equally important. They all stood up for each other, and fought for one another. It was the 'Liverpool way'.

"I would hate if a former team-mate of mine said I changed when I became captain, or said the captaincy made me a different person," he admits. "I would have been incredibly disappointed with myself in that case."

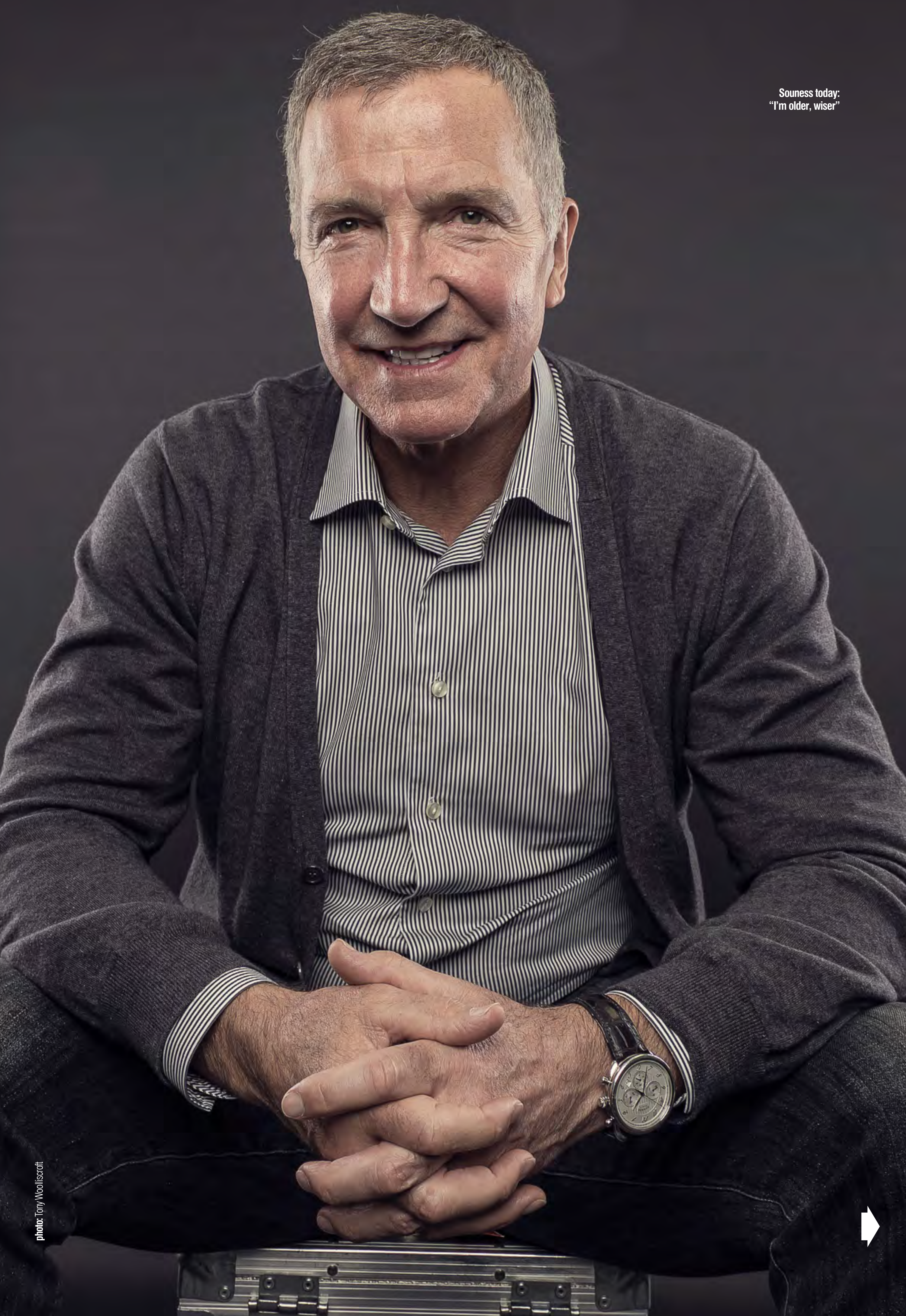
What would you say is your proudest moment as a captain?

"Winning trophies. But still, even though I won the European Cup three times, once as a captain, we won the league all three years when I was captain. Three years in a row. Winning the league gives you a different type of recognition to winning the European Cup, the FA Cup or any other cup. Winning the league means you've worked incredibly hard and dealt with the difficult periods of the season better than any other team. It means the big personalities in the team have fought extra hard and dragged the others with them."



Another season, another title… May 1982

Liverpool Captains: A Journey of Leadership from the Pitch (De Coubertin Books) is on sale now.



Souness today: "I'm older, wiser"

photo: Tony Woolliscroft

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Phil Neal

Long-serving, highly-decorated right-back Phil Neal wore the armband for one season, 1984/85. “A good captain integrates the rest of the squad and has enough experience over the years to be able to do that,” he says.

“When I first came to Liverpool I didn’t say anything in team-talks for about four years. It was a learning curve and it was only towards the end of my Liverpool career in 1984, when Graeme Souness left to join Sampdoria, that I was offered the captaincy. It was a deep honour for me. I’d seen other people take it on and been prominent in the dressing-room and now it was my turn.

“The vital things you need from a captain are on the pitch. You need those ‘get a tackle in early’ or ‘don’t let the winger get past you’ shouts at the right times. You also need a sense of humour as being able to have a laugh in the dressing-room when you’re playing 60-odd games a year, which is tough-going, is important.

“I felt more responsibility as Liverpool captain. Whereas before I’d maybe try to affect what Jimmy Case or Sammy Lee were doing in front of me down the right, now I was having to convey messages to everyone in the team. I got into it and tried to set an example as the captains before had done. They gave me strength and belief – as did the fans by nicknaming me ‘Zico’. So now, even though I knew my captaincy wouldn’t last too long, it was my turn to do the same for my team-mates.

“There is one big thing that you may not know that the Liverpool captain had to drive home on the pitch – about getting a second goal when we were 1-0 up. If we got an early goal the message was to press for another because only when we got a second would we feel more relaxed. The captain was responsible for pressing home that message.

“I can see that same focus now from Jürgen Klopp. I watched a game at Anfield and after Liverpool went 1-0 up two players missed easy chances before half-time. Klopp’s expressions said it all. He was annoyed that his team hadn’t gone in two or three up at half-time and at the start of the second half I could still see the tension in his face. When a second goal did go in, his face changed completely. A 2-0 lead creates a comfort on the pitch and that was a thing we aimed for when I was captaining Liverpool.”

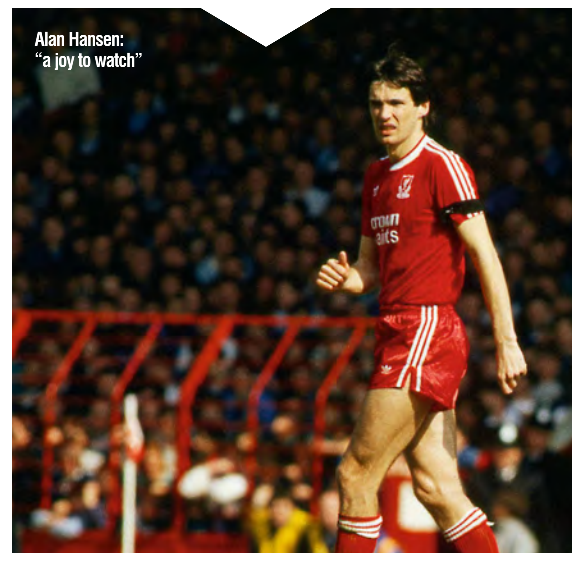

SIGNS IN AS THE
NEW SKIPPER

“On my first day at Anfield, I was getting changed next to Ian Callaghan, and it came home to me what a model professional he was. I was determined then to follow his example.”

THE GOLDEN BOOT FOR IAN RUSH

Alan Hansen

‘Jocky’ took over the captaincy in the summer of 1985, promptly leading the team to a League and FA Cup double and lifting two further titles before a knee injury curtailed his glittering playing career in 1990. Manager Bob Paisley described him as “the defender with the pedigree of an international striker. He is quite simply the most skilful centre-half I have ever seen in the British game, a joy to watch.” Relying on brain rather than brawn, Hansen’s reading of the game was exceptional while his graceful style was tailor-made for Liverpool’s tactic of patient build-up play from the back – countless times he broke up opposition attacks and strode upfield with the ball at his feet.


Alan Hansen: “a joy to watch”

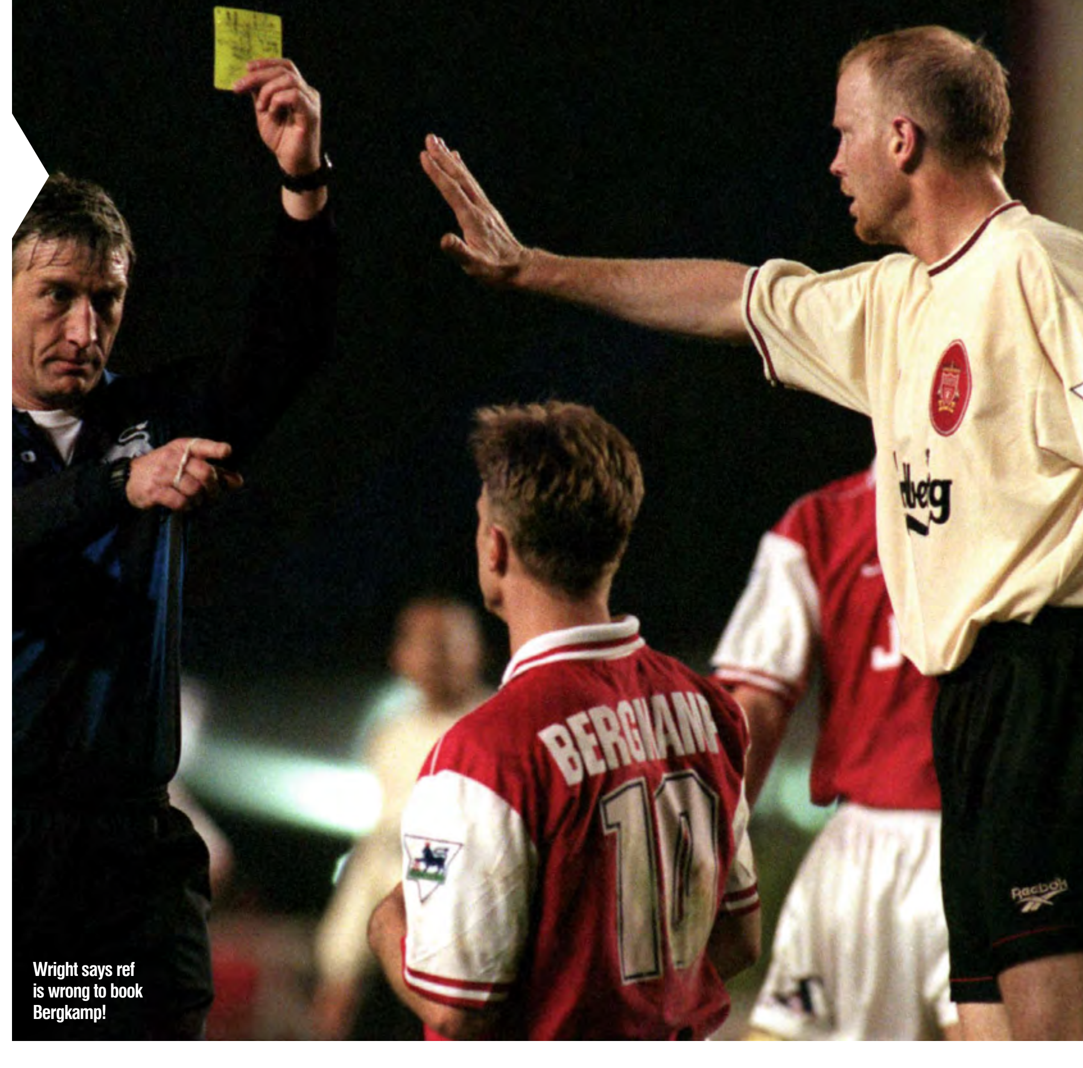


Mark Wright

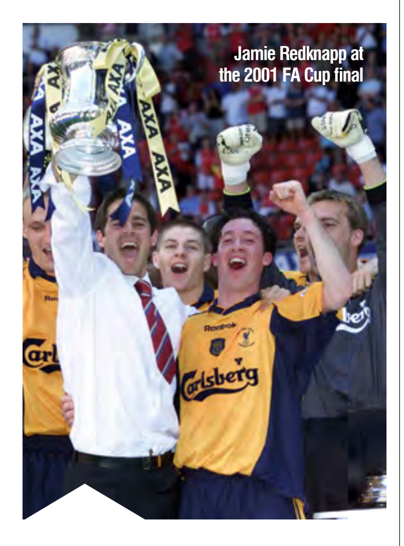
At the end of the 1992 FA Cup final why did Reds skipper Mark Wright apologise in advance to the Duchess of Kent? Because he swore when he lifted the trophy above his head. "I said, 'Sorry for what I'm about to say' and she said, 'What are you about to say?' Let's just say it wasn't Jolly good show!'"

Wright had broken his leg playing for Southampton against Liverpool back in the 1986 FA Cup semi-final. Five years later, having starred for England at the World Cup finals and become a leader at Derby County, he signed for the club he'd supported as a lad. "Roma had come in for me and I could've played with the great Brazilian, Aldair. It was an attractive option. But my dad is Scouse and so are lots of my aunts, uncles and cousins. There was only one place I wanted to go to."

Ultimately it was something of a mixed experience. "I lifted the FA Cup and thought: this is why I joined. But then I also spent time out of the team. Clubs came in for me and I refused to go. I felt I hadn't done what I'd set out to do – win the respect of the fans. I think that by the time I did leave in 1998 I hopefully had won that. When you gain the respect of a fanbase like Liverpool's you've done your job."



Wright says ref is wrong to book Bergkamp!



Jamie Redknapp at the 2001 FA Cup final

Jamie Redknapp

The armband had been worn variously by Ian Rush, John Barnes and Paul Ince before Jamie assumed the captaincy in 1999 in a new era of stability and success under manager Gerard Houllier. He recalls: "It was strange to look around the pitch and realise that at 26 I was one of the most experienced players. There was no Barnes or Ince to call upon. I was no longer a baby. I realised I had more responsibilities now."

The following season knee surgery meant Redknapp ended up sharing the skipper's role with Robbie Fowler and Sami Hyypia, as the Reds won an unprecedented treble of trophies.

Sami Hyypia

Defensive rock Sami was stand-in skipper in 2001 when Liverpool completed their unprecedented cup treble then won the Community Shield and UEFA Super Cup, and he must be regarded as one of the club's most inspired signings. The 6ft 3in Finn was a virtual unknown when bought from Dutch outfit Willem II and was actually recommended to Liverpool by TV cameraman!

Former LFC chief executive Peter Robinson recalled: "Midway through the 1998/99 season there was a knock on the door of my office and a chap introduced himself as a cameraman who covered football in Europe. He knew we were looking for a strong defender and recommended we take a look at Sami, who was playing for Willem, one of the smaller Dutch clubs. That is how it all started. I passed the message on to Gerard Houllier."



Skipper Sami at the 2001 Super Cup


adidas
Carlsberg
adidas


istanbul
The Final 2005
ISTANBUL
2005
EUROPÉENS

Steven Gerrard

The following is adapted from Steven Gerrard: My Captain's Book, published in 2008…

"I learned more from being Liverpool captain when things hadn't gone too well. You learn more in football from bad experiences. Obviously I had some tremendous highs as captain with the trophies I lifted – every time we won a football match and I was wearing that armband the feeling and the buzz was unbelievable – but going out of competitions, bad defeats or falling short in the league, you remember and learn from all of that too.

"In the Champions League final in Istanbul everything was new for me and it took its toll. I wasted a lot of energy with nerves before the game, but I didn't make the same mistake again. When you're nervous you get tight, you don't make the right decisions and you don't play to the best of your ability. I think that probably showed in the first 45 minutes. The comeback was incredible, but we shouldn't have been in that position in the first place.

"As captain I felt more responsible, particularly when we got beat. I'm sure I speak for Jamie Carragher too. When we got on that bus after a defeat we knew there were hundreds of thousands of people around the world who were disappointed, but I'd argue to the death that there weren't two people who felt it more than me and Jamie. We were captain and vice-captain, the leaders in the pack.

"There are different types of captains. Where Carra was a shouter, people said I came across as a quieter captain who led more by example. Maybe I wasn't as loud as Jamie, but it didn't mean I wasn't as vocal as him on the pitch or in the dressing-room. It also doesn't mean that he didn't lead by example just as much as me.

"My first match as official Liverpool club captain was against Olimpija Ljubljana in 2003. It was a dream-come-true for me, probably one of the best days of my life. I was buzzing. We cruised through 3-0 but not everything went according to plan for me on a personal level. I was substituted seconds before we won a penalty...that was missed by El-Hadji Diouf. I was on penalties so I was gutted when I came off!

"Many times I've thought about the previous captains who have led the team out. Emlyn Hughes, Phil Neal, Alan Hansen...so many great players. Phil Thompson is a man who captained the club who I've got an awful lot of respect for. He knew how the club works, but importantly he knew how exactly a captain should behave on and off the pitch. He'd experienced it himself so who better to listen to and get help from?

"The captain's armband is very important. It can't be disrespected or passed around too much in a game. It was an honour to wear it. I used to wear the same armband for 10, 12, 15 games if we were doing well. But if we'd had a bad defeat or I didn't think I'd played very well I'd throw it away and get a new one. Not many opposition skippers asked to swap armbands at the end of a match, but Javier Zanetti did. He asked for my armband when we played Inter Milan in the Champions League in 2008.

"I was well aware that I had responsibility on my shoulders as the captain of Liverpool Football Club and every year there was one date in my diary that was more important than any other. We would all go to Anfield every year on 15 April to pay our respects to the 96 supporters who lost their lives at Hillsborough. It is a difficult time of year for those families who lost loved ones and it was important we paid our respects and and offered our support. It was always an afternoon which put life in real perspective."


Tunnel vision: ahead of a Merseyside derby

"IT'S A SPECTACULAR RESULT BUT IT'S NOT A RESULT YOU WANT TO HAVE TOO MANY TIMES DURING THE SEASON"

After this season's opening-weekend 4-3 win at Arsenal

"In England you have stadiums in the middle of the city. We don't have that in Germany. If we had a stadium in the city, the people would be telling you: 'Hey, it's Monday night – turn the sound down"

Daily Mail interview, September 2016

"In the end if you really want to step up you sometimes have to kick the ass of your team-mate"

To the Liverpool FC magazine, September 2016

"I GOT ATTRACTED TO THIS GAME WHEN I WAS 16 AND HAD A SCHOOL EXCHANGE IN...LUTON. TWO WEEKS IN LUTON. I WATCHED IT DURING THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES AND THOUGHT: WHAT THE * IS THIS?!"***

Talking to LFCTV before a game of crown green bowls in Formby

"Nobody wakes up in the morning and says: 'Today I can climb Mount Everest'. But if you climb a number of smaller mountains then you will be ready for it... It's not that we want to run like rabbits, it's about having the opportunity to run like a crazy rabbit if we want to"

Speaking to LFCTV during pre-season, August 2016

"THE BEST WORD I CAN SAY TO DESCRIBE THIS IS: BOOM!"

After the 3-0 win over Manchester City last March

"In dreamland you always win four or five-nil and the crowd can go a little earlier and do something a bit more serious"

Following a nervy finish to Liverpool's 2-1 win over West Brom, October 2016

"The best band in the world. My mother said it, my father said it. Number one: **The Beatles**"

Wearing a Fab Four t-shirt at a pre-match press-conference

"ONE [PAIR OF GLASSES] IS IN THE MUSEUM OF BORUSSIA DORTMUND BECAUSE WE WON FOR THE FIRST TIME AGAINST BAYERN MUNICH AND NURI SAHIN BROKE MY FIRST GLASSES. TODAY IT WAS ADAM LALLANA, [AGAIN THEY'RE] BROKEN. USUALLY I HAVE A SECOND PAIR BUT UNTIL NOW I COULDN'T FIND IT BECAUSE IT'S REALLY DIFFICULT TO LOOK FOR GLASSES WITHOUT GLASSES! I'M NOT SURE IF ANYONE [AT THE ANFIELD MUSEUM] WILL ASK FOR THEM BUT I WILL KEEP THEM AND WE'LL SEE..."

Post match interview following the last-gasp 5-4 win at Norwich last season

KLOPP TALK

The pick of the manager's best lines post-match, in press-conferences and his programme notes



"I know this is a place for big football moments – we didn't start this story, there were other people – but we know about our responsibility to try to write a few nice stories in football and tonight it was a really nice story"

On the epic 4-3 win over Borussia Dortmund at Anfield

"THE PLAYERS KNOW GREAT MOMENTS AND NIGHTS DON'T HAPPEN HERE JUST BECAUSE YOU STEP OFF A BUS AND TOUCH THE SIGN ON THE WAY TO THE PITCH. GREAT THINGS HAPPEN WHEN SUPPORTERS AND PLAYERS MAKE IT HAPPEN"

Villarreal matchday programme notes in May 2016

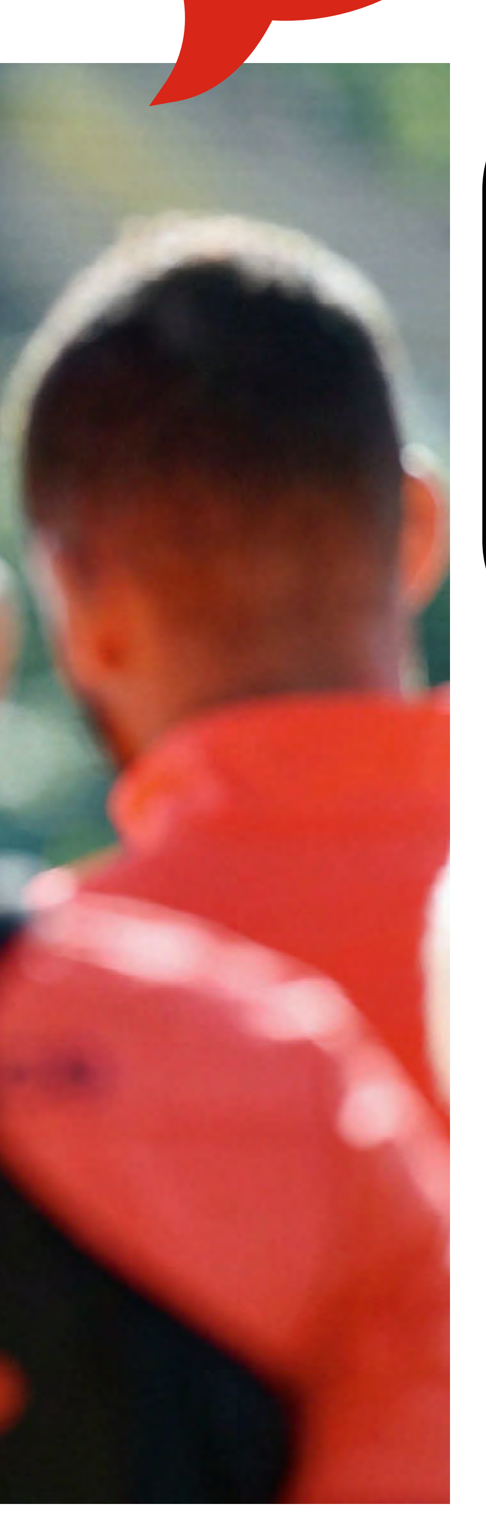


"IT WOULD BE COOL IF WE HAD 10 PLAYERS FROM THE ACADEMY [IN THE FIRST TEAM] – I WOULD LOVE TO BE PART OF THE PRESS-CONFERENCE WHERE I SAY: 'NO SIGNINGS THIS YEAR'"

On creating the right pathway from Kirkby to Anfield for youngsters

"This extra capacity [at Anfield] only means something if we make it mean something. As the team we know it is always for us to inspire you. But today, this special day, let's make the 'new' Anfield something incredible and a place that feels instantly like a home where we will be successful"

Call-to-arms, programme notes for the first game at Anfield in 2016/17



"I have to accept that not everyone is 100 per cent happy with my performances on the sidelines, but I'm not as intense as I used to be when I was younger. Sometimes it still happens, but actually now at Anfield with the new stand there is much more space for all of us…"

Ahead of the goalless Anfield draw with Manchester United in October

"I'm not here for a year, I'm here hopefully for the long term and it means that we have to use all the information we have until now and learn from it. That's how life works: collecting experience, learning from it and being ready for the next challenge"

Answering questions about his first-year anniversary with Liverpool FC

"It is us, the team, who must make it so that you never want to leave Anfield while the game is still in progress. It is us who have to make you believe, no matter what stage of the game, that we are still fighting and capable of producing something incredible"

Addressing the fans in his matchday programme notes, November 2015

"EVERYONE ASKS ME ABOUT 'KLOPP FOOTBALL'. I LIKE GOOD FOOTBALL. WE HAVE TO HAVE OPTIONS FOR EVERYTHING: WHEN WE HAVE THE BALL, PLAYING; WHEN THEY HAVE THE BALL, DEFENDING. THERE IS NO KIND OF KLOPP FOOTBALL. WE ADAPT THE QUALITY TO THE SKILLS OF THE PLAYER AND TRY AND WIN A LOT OF GAMES OF FOOTBALL"

After September's 2-1 win at Chelsea


"ANFIELD GIVES YOU EXTRA POWER!"

Defender Ragnar Klavan talks Klopp, Kop, and swapping Alps for Annie Road

Estonia. Norway. Netherlands. Germany. United Kingdom. It may sound like the bottom five at the end of the Eurovision Song Contest, but those five countries represent a map of Ragnar Klavan's football career.

The Reds centre-half moved from his native Estonia to Norwegian capital Oslo at the age of 18 before spending a combined seven years in the Dutch cities of Almelo and Alkmaar. In 2012 he moved to Bavaria to play for Augsburg and since July the 31-year-old has been a Liverpool player. Adapting to both a different way of life and a different style of football at the same time can only be described as challenging, but the Estonian international skipper is making a good fist at doing both.

"I'm settling in slowly but surely," he says with a smile as we chat at Melwood. "When I first moved here we went around the city-centre a little bit as we were living in a hotel, but now I'm in a quieter area with my family.

"Liverpool is nice. The city-centre area and down by the docks are beautiful. I lived in Oslo when I was 18, but Liverpool is the biggest city I have lived in since then and it is different to how life was in Augsburg. We lived in the one place there and it was much quieter. The centre of Augsburg is not so big, it's a lot smaller than Liverpool and is quite spread out. There's a lot of nature there because Augsburg is situated by the Alps. The scenery is quite different to Liverpool!"

So too, as father-of-two Ragnar and wife Lili have discovered, is the English schooling system. "The children have to go to school here when they are four years old. This was the first difference for us. We are used to children going to school when they are six in Germany and it is proper school they go to at that age where they sit behind a desk all day. Here in England you go to play-school as a four-year-old, so that is a big difference."

Speaking of education, learning the ropes in English football is not something that every player who



arrives from a different country is able to do successfully. As a centre-half, Klavan now finds himself having to deal with bustling, bruising centre-forwards such as Alexis Sanchez, Diego Costa and Romelu Lukaku. But he says that the physical nature of the English Premier League only has one main difference from his experiences in the Bundesliga: the way games are refereed.

"Football in England is more intensive and physical, but it's not that the German league isn't intense or physical. The difference in my eyes is that the referees in England allow more things to happen on the pitch.

"Players in England cannot run quicker or jump higher than players in Germany, but they can be more physical. This means you have to train a little bit differently here to deal with that when you are used to playing football in another way. In the beginning I found it a little bit harder, but then I thought: okay, I can do this now when I couldn't in Germany. So I have had to get used to it.

"It's not for me to say if it's in a good way different or a bad way different, but English football and the Premier League are unique in world football. For sure it is nothing like when I played in Holland! Germany is more similar, but as I said a lot more is allowed to happen on the pitch here than anywhere else I have played."

Klavan is in the unique position of being the only footballer who has played against Jürgen Klopp's Borussia Dortmund and both for and against Klopp's Liverpool in competitive fixtures, having appeared in both legs of our Europa League round of 32 clashes with Augsburg last season. He knows which side he'd rather be on.

"When we were playing Borussia Dortmund we knew that whether we had the ball or didn't have it, there is always pressure. It was really, really hard to play against them and this is how we play at the moment at Liverpool. All our opponents have a really difficult time against us, especially because we change so fast. When we lose the ball we are right there to get it back. This is also the way we train at Melwood and that is really important.

"We are running the most of every team in the Premier League, but we don't feel exhausted doing this. We have the adrenaline to want to win the ball back whenever we lose it. When we do this, and it leads to us doing something with the ball, it is very nice."

Capped 112 times by Estonia, the defender admits it was heartening to hear Klopp say that he'd tracked his career since first seeing him play for Augsburg in 2012. "His knowledge of the German Bundesliga meant

In action at Arsenal at the start of the season

"WHEN WE LOSE THE BALL WE'RE RIGHT THERE TO RETRIVE IT – IT'S HOW WE TRAIN AT MELWOOD"

he knew me and to be picked by Jürgen Klopp to play for Liverpool was amazing." But did his own prior knowledge of playing against his new manager's teams give him a head-start when first training with the Reds?

"Of course I knew a little bit about how they played under him, but I didn't know the detail behind it. We are working on detail all the time here and it takes time to get used to this. I have never played in this kind of style – I was used to different styles of football – so it was important that we had a really good pre-season. We worked a lot in the summer. At some points I thought: oh my God, this was so much today. And then you wake up fresh the next morning and you've got to go again! But it is good to be working under the coaches here and a manager like Jürgen Klopp.

"He is one of the best in the world because of his philosophy, the way he coaches and the way he shows his emotions. It is not only on a game-day when he shows his emotions, we see this at training and in team meetings. For me I feel really lucky to be here every day playing for him and learning something new."

Another new dynamic for Klavan is working alongside different centre-halves. During his first two starts for Liverpool, away to Arsenal and Burnley, he was partnered by Dejan Lovren, then in his next couple of




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"KLOPP IS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD, I FEEL REALLY LUCKY TO BE HERE PLAYING FOR HIM"

appearances, against Derby and Hull, he found himself next to fellow new-boy Joel Matip. Any notion that such changes put him or Liverpool at a disadvantage while they learn each other's games, though, are swiftly and confidently dismissed.

"Dejan and Joel are both really good centre-halves and at this level there is not much difference when you analyse if one is better with another. Everybody at Liverpool is at the highest level and we are being coached by perfect coaching staff to play the way we want to play. It makes it a lot easier for everyone to jump into the team no matter which position you are talking about.

"Sometimes it is effortless the way players slot in here. They can play so good straightaway and this is because of how we do things in training. Even if you are not going to be in the starting XI one week, you still get the same coaching, the same ideas, and work on the same movements.

"The amount of games we have in a season, even without being in Europe this year, is a lot and at some points you play every two or three days here! So I think for the team it is really good to have a fluid system that means players can easily come in and out when the manager needs them to."

But does the same apply to goalkeepers? I explain to Ragnar that when I was growing up as a Liverpool supporter in the mid-late 1980s, Alan Hansen and Mark Lawrenson were always at centre-half with Bruce Grobbelaar behind them. Back-up keeper Mike Hooper was lesser spotted than the garden birds he used to look for with his binoculars, and only if there was an injury would Gary Gillespie come in at centre-back. This season, factoring Lucas into the equation, we've seen four centre-halves form four different partnerships with two different goalkeepers in Simon Mignolet and Loris Karius sharing the gloves. It's well established that the relationship between a goalie and his centre-halves is one of the most important on the pitch so surely that can't develop smoothly if the personnel involved keep changing?

"The more you train together, the more you get used to a goalkeeper's pluses and minuses. Every player has pluses and minuses so in training you need to learn a lot about each other to know how you will both react when you go on the field."

Which brings me to a question that is a regular topic of debate – especially during matches at Anfield – among Kopites. Under Jürgen Klopp, and predecessor Brendan Rodgers for that matter, there is an emphasis on playing the ball out from the back.



Such a style of football can be easy on the eye to watch, but it can also give Liverpool supporters palpitations when riskier passes are attempted between goalkeeper and defender with high-pressing opponents bearing down on them. Klavan, who speaks excellent English and smiles warmly throughout our conversation, laughs.

"The first part of playing this way is always the eye-connection between a centre-half and a goalkeeper. If I'm not looking at the goalkeeper then it makes no sense for him to try and pass the ball short to me, but if I want the ball I need to make eye-contact and already have an idea of what I am going to do with it.

"If the other guy I am thinking to pass it to is ready then great, but if not I have to consider playing a long ball because I would normally be under pressure from an opponent. This is something we are working on and learning about in training because we need to react as a whole team if we want to play football in this way."

Looks like my fingernails might be in for more nibbling for a while yet then, but then if the Reds keep scoring goals at the other end the odd nervy moment at the back won't be a problem and Klavan is already off the mark. His first-half strike at Pride Park, aka the iPro Stadium, in the EFL Cup in September was his first goal since netting away to Werder Bremen in the Bundesliga on St Valentines Day 2015. It's fair to say Ragnar isn't a prolific scorer so when I ask him to describe the feeling of

"AS A VISITOR IT WAS HARD TO PLAY AT ANFIELD - THIS PLACE IS SOMETHING AMAZING"

smashing one in for Liverpool he leans back into his chair a little and smiles.

"Nice!" he says before pausing as if mentally reliving it. "I don't score too many goals so my celebration wasn't so good! I kind of looked around thinking: oh my God, what happened here! But it was a really good moment for me because I'd had a little injury in my knee so to return to play against Derby and score an early goal to make it one-zero was nice."

Better than keeping a clean-sheet at the other end? "I'm more of a clean-sheet guy. For me, keeping the score against us at zero and letting the strikers take all the credit for scoring goals is better. But if we can keep a clean-sheet and I can score the first goal then it is something special for a centre-half."



Four days later he made his home debut against Hull City and admits it was a completely different experience to when he played in front of the Kop for Augsburg in February. "As a visitor it was really hard to play at Anfield. This place is something amazing. There is so much history here. Everyone is together so when you walk into Anfield as an opponent it is a little bit intimidating. As a Liverpool player it is different. Anfield gives you extra power.

"The first time when I walked down the tunnel and stepped onto the field here as a Liverpool player in the starting XI was special. I just wanted to enjoy the atmosphere and take it in. It was special for me to step onto the pitch and play for this crowd."

That same crowd also has high expectations and with the Reds making a decent start to the 2016/17 campaign there's been plenty of chatter about what can be achieved, at least outside of the club rather than in the dressing-room. "We haven't really talked about it," he reveals, "but Liverpool is an amazing club with amazing fans so, of course, we want to win titles. We are working on this every day and we are building something special here to make it happen.

"Will it happen this season, or next season or the season after? It is hard to say, but we are certainly moving in the right direction."

Words: Chris McLoughlin

KLAVAN'S CLEVER DEBUT GOAL





Tuesday 20 September 2016: the Reds are at Derby County's iPro Stadium for a potentially tricky EFL Cup third-round tie. The game remains goalless around midway through the first half…





Rams defender Chris Baird concedes a corner down Liverpool's left flank and it's a superb in-swinger into a crowded Derby penalty-area from the right boot of that man Philippe Coutinho…





The ball evades a cluster of jumping players and ricochets off Richard Keogh to Ragnar Klavan, who fires home on the half-volley with his left foot despite the attenions of Cyrus Christie…





The Estonian become the team's 10th different player on the scoresheet in seven games as the Reds strike twice more to ease through and book a fourth-round tie with Tottenham Hotspur…



LIVERPOOL V LEEDS

Back to the 1960s and 70s as we revisit an historic rivalry ahead of this month's EFL Cup tie at Anfield…

Liverpool versus Leeds United. Redmen v White Rose. Shankly versus Revie. Anfield and Elland Road. Kopites never walking alone. Leeds marching on together. Two football-mad cities joined by one 127-mile long, 200-year-old canalway…and a rivalry that, for a decade, was arguably the biggest in English football.

Words: Chris McLoughlin

Between August 1964 and August 1974 this (Leeds & Liverpool) 'Canal derby' was huge. Season-defining in many cases. The clubs met in title-deciding league games, the FA Cup final, a European semi-final, the League Cup and in the Charity Shield. As Bill Shankly put it, when asked by the BBC's John Motson about the rivalry between the two clubs in 1973: "It's been a kind of monopoly, you know? Possibly we invented the word monopoly, Leeds and Liverpool." And it all began when Leeds returned to Division One in August 1964.

Shankly's Liverpool began the campaign as champions – quite an achievement having only won promotion in 1962 – but Leeds boss Don Revie wanted to go one better after leading his emerging side to the Second Division title following his own appointment in 1961. The Peacocks were being preened to knock the Liver Bird off its perch.

Liverpool arrived in West Yorkshire on 26 August 1964 for their first away game as defending champions underneath the Elland Road floodlights. They lost 4-2. It was only the second time the Bill Shankly boys had conceded four goals in





a game since being promoted in 1962. "Don Revie told us to go out and prove that we were a match, and more, for them," recalled Scots midfielder Billy Bremner. "His words inspired us and put us in exactly the right frame of mind for the task ahead. Liverpool were excellent, as good as we had expected, but we were not going to pay them too much respect."

Gauntlet laid down. Leeds visited Anfield the following midweek (the proximity of the games a quirk that 1960s fixture-lists often threw up) joint-top of the table with a 100 per cent record. Liverpool and a vocal Anfield crowd of 52,548 were intent on taking Revie's young upstarts down a peg or two…which became a tad harder when Bobby Collins pinged a sixth-minute free-kick into the net via the chest of keeper Tommy Lawrence.

It took until the 67th minute for the Reds to level. Winger Peter Thompson, who'd struck the crossbar moments earlier, fired home from 20 yards. With a Leeds side featuring Jack Charlton, Norman Hunter and Johnny Giles suddenly looking nervous, 19-year-old Tommy Smith lashed in a shot from 30 yards out that ricocheted off both posts before nestling behind Leeds keeper Gary Sprake in the back of the net. Liverpool 2 Leeds United 1: a scoreline that would go down in Scouse folklore when the sides next met, in May 1965.

"AND HE'S STILL WAVING HIS RATTLE…!

Monday 26 April 1965. Top of Division One by a point from Manchester United, who had a game-in-hand, Leeds travelled to Birmingham City for the final league match of their first season back in the top flight since 1959/60. They needed to win and hope United, managed by former Liverpool skipper Matt Busby, dropped points in their final two games.

With 52 minutes on the clock, and the home side reduced to ten men, Leeds went 3-0 down. Revie's men, who earlier in the campaign had gone on an 18-match unbeaten run, had cracked under the pressure. They got it back to 3-3 but it wasn't enough – the title went to Old Trafford on goal-average. With the score at three-nil Revie had shouted to his players to "take it steady." He knew the title was gone and was already thinking about a Wembley date on 1 May. The FA Cup was at stake and neither Liverpool or Leeds had ever won it before.

Leeds had the tunnel end, the travelling Spion Kop were amassed opposite. Both clubs had only received 15,000 tickets each, but there were few neutrals among the 100,000 crowd with £2.50 tickets going for £25 on the black market. As Shankly and Revie led their teams out the noise was deafening, and when Shanks reached the penalty-spot with his players

St John wins the cup at Wembley, May 1965

marching behind he raised both hands towards Liverpool's support. The Liverpool end erupted.

Leeds skipper Bobby Collins, playing in his 'lucky' woollen socks that had turned yellowish after numerous washes instead of the nylon white socks his team-mates wore, gave an indication of why Revie's men had become known as 'dirty Leeds': in the third minute he clattered Liverpool full-back Gerry Byrne with a knee-high challenge before following through with a body-check. The impact left Byrne with a broken collarbone.

Not only did the tough-as-teak Scouser play on, he created the opening goal – ironically in the third minute of extra-time with the score goalless after 90 minutes – for Roger Hunt to head home. Byrne leapt into the air to celebrate but with only one arm raised, the other motionless by his side. It also prompted a famous one-man pitch invasions.

Over to commentator Kenneth Wolstenholme: "Yes, a goal by Hunt! Roger Hunt has scored and they've gone mad! And onto the field...they're invading the pitch. There's one fella got on, one chap has got on, and what a sight. There's the Mersey's beat! And there's a man being arrested but he doesn't care. Eee-aye-addio we've scored a goal! My goodness we've never seen this at Wembley before. Two, four, six policemen and he's still

waving his rattle!" The last line of that quote is now on a Kop banner often seen at Liverpool matches.

Bremner volleyed in a 102nd-minute equaliser, setting up the prospect of a replay. But with nine minutes to go Ian Callaghan burst down the right and chipped the ball to Ian St John at the far post who twisted his neck to flick a diving header into the net. Liverpool 2 Leeds United 1.

After 73 long years Liverpool had finally won the FA Cup. Leeds were left to rue missing out on a historic league and FA Cup double due to goal-average and a 111th-minute strike at Wembley. Harsh, but this was just the start. A new rivalry had well and truly begun.

CARELESS HANDS…

Liverpool won the league for the second time in three years in 1965/66. Guess who came second? Leeds, by six points. And although the two clashes between the Reds and Whites didn't prove decisive, they showed just how closely matched the sides were.

A brutal encounter on a frost-covered Anfield pitch on 27 December 1965 finished 1-0 to Leeds. Peter Lorimer tapped home the early winner in a contest that could easily have finished as seven-a-side given the nature of the tackling.

Jürgen Klopp rightly thinks the Christmas schedule is demanding now, but the following day Liverpool travelled to Elland Road and got revenge with their own 1-0 win, Gordon Milne getting the only goal to end Leeds' unbeaten home record. Shankly's side were nine points clear by mid-March and Leeds didn't come close to catching them.

The following November of 1966, Liverpool thumped Leeds 5-0 at Anfield. "There is no doubt we shall now have to think of Liverpool as one of the all-time greats," said Revie afterwards. But by the time Leeds won the return encounter 2-1 at Elland Road in May 1967, both sides were out of contention for title. Leeds finished fourth, Liverpool fifth. A year later and the Reds were third with Leeds fourth, but those inside a snowy Anfield on 9 December 1967 witnessed one of the most famous own-goals of all-time.

A minute before half-time, with Liverpool a goal up courtesy of Hunt, Leeds keeper Gary Sprake picked up a back-pass, as you could at the time, and attempted to throw it out to left-back Terry Cooper. As he started the motion to throw he changed his mind at the last second, perhaps spotting Callaghan out the corner of his eye, and attempted to pull the ball back towards his chest. But it slipped from his grasp and flew into the net.

"TO STAND THERE AS A LEEDS PLAYER AND BE CHEERED BY THE KOP, WHAT A GREAT GESTURE"



Leeds celebrate their championship clincher at Anfield in April 1969

The story goes that within a matter of seconds, as a transfixed Sprake stood stunned, the Kop burst into a chorus of Des O'Connor's hit of the time, Careless Hands. Whether this was before or after the tune played over the PA system at half-time has long been debated in the alehouses of Anfield.

There was far more at stake when Leeds were back in town on a Monday night in April 1969. With three games left to play, second-placed Liverpool trailed Revie's men by five points, with a game-in-hand. A win would keep the Reds in title contention; anything less and Leeds would clinch the club's first-ever First Division championship. It finished 0-0 with Sprake making a flying save from Callaghan to earn Leeds the point they needed.

The sense of disappointment in the ground was palpable, but what happened next was legendary. As the Leeds players walked towards the Kop, unsure of what reaction they would receive, a ripple of applause rang out before a lone voice chanted 'Champions!' The rest of the Kop followed suit. "To stand there as a Leeds player and be cheered by the Kop that was something," said Jack Charlton after the game, while Revie was equally as impressed: "What a great gesture, you would have thought their team had won the league." Shankly told the press that "the best team drew" but later went into the Leeds dressing-room to pass on his congratulations.

Season 1969/70 wasn't a great one for the Reds: they finished fifth with Leeds a distant second behind champions Everton. But a 1-1 draw at Elland Road that season was notable for another Sprake howler when he



Mud, blood and thunder at Elland Road, December 1969



inexplicably let a Ron Yeats header from the edge of the box slip through his hands and legs. Season 1970/71, however, saw the now-established rivalry move to a different playing field.

TO ELLAND BACK...

While there are five European Cups, three UEFA Cups and three Super Cups in the Anfield trophy cabinet now, the European cupboard was bare back in 1970. Liverpool and Leeds found themselves in the European Fairs Cup (rebranded the UEFA Cup the following year) and, after the Reds saw off Bayern Munich and Leeds dispatched Portuguese side Vitoria in the quarter-finals, they were drawn to play each other in the last four. It was the first time Liverpool had faced an all-English tie in Europe.

The Reds had had the better of the league encounters that year, winning 1-0 at Elland Road in February 1971 following a 1-1 draw at Anfield the previous December. But this time a Kop-end Bremner header gave the Yorkshire side a 1-0 first-leg win.

Shankly's side couldn't break down a white wall of defenders in the second leg either. Leeds dug out a 0-0 draw to set up a two-legged final against Juventus which they won on away-goals. It was Revie's second success in the competition having won it in 1968 when Leeds beat Ferencvaros.

If those games had been tight it was nothing compared to the title-race in 1971/72 when four clubs – Liverpool, Leeds, Derby County and Manchester City – went into their final games of the season with a chance of being crowned champions. City beat Brian Clough's Derby 2-0 in their final match, but the Rams had a game-in-hand at home to Liverpool. Whoever won would go top. It wasn't the Reds, John McGovern giving Derby a 1-0 win, but the fat lady wasn't singing just yet: Liverpool and Leeds could still win it.

Leeds required just a point at Wolves. But if they failed to get it then a Liverpool victory at Arsenal, on the same Monday night, would send the title back to Anfield. Incredibly both teams blew it. Leeds lost 2-1 at Molineux; Liverpool could only draw at Arsenal, with Shankly furious about a



Above right: Charity Shield scrap, August 1974. Below: League Cup action at Anfield, October 1972

"BILL STUNNED THE FOOTBALL WORLD IN JULY 1974; REVIE HAD LEFT LEEDS EIGHT DAYS EARLIER"

disallowed John Toshack goal on 88 minutes. Derby were champions.

Liverpool had lost home and away to Leeds earlier that season and also been knocked out of the FA Cup in a fourth-round replay at Elland Road. Once again results against the Yorkshiremen, who went on to win the FA Cup, had been critical in deciding Liverpool's season. But they didn't make the same mistake twice.

The Reds responded by winning a record eighth league title in 1972/73. Having beaten Leeds 2-1 at Elland Road in September with goals from Larry Lloyd and Phil Boersma, they went back there for a League Cup fourth-round replay in November (after a 2-2 Anfield draw) and won again. Kevin Keegan got a 90th-minute winner after Ray Clemence had saved a Johnny Giles penalty…three years to the day that Giles had missed another one against Liverpool at Elland Road.

When the sides convened again at Anfield in April 1973, a Liverpool win would all but mathematically secure the championship and end Leeds' own faint title hopes. They got the job done. Peter Cormack notched the first just after half-time; Keegan slotted the second after a collision between Leeds keeper David Harvey and a defender.

Remembering the reception they had been afforded when winning the title at Anfield four years earlier, the Leeds players lined up by the tunnel at full-time to give Liverpool a guard of honour. It may have been English football's fiercest rivalry, but such respect spoke volumes for both clubs.

The season ended with Liverpool winning the UEFA Cup final against Borussia Moenchengladbach 3-2 on aggregate to claim a first European trophy while Leeds were beaten 1-0 by AC Milan in the European Cup Winners' Cup final in Thessaloniki, having also lost the FA Cup final to Second Division Sunderland. Despite their successes, it meant Leeds had been beaten in five cup finals and finished as First Division runners-up five times in the space of nine seasons.

A year later and the tables turned again. Both sides beat each other at home 1-0 in the First Division, but Leeds went on to win the 1973/74 title with Liverpool finishing as runners-up, five points adrift. An FA Cup final win over Newcastle United wasn't a bad consolation for Shankly's men to set up a first Charity Shield clash between the two clubs. What nobody knew at the time was that things were about to change forever.



Don Revie congratulates Shanks on the title win at Anfield in April 1973

END OF TWO ERAS…

Bill Shankly stunned Liverpool supporters when he announced his retirement on 12 July 1974. Granada TV footage of supporters hearing the news on the streets drew stunned responses. Nowhere else in the country could they even begin to understand the stomach-churning sense of loss and uncertainty, except perhaps in West Yorkshire.

Eight days earlier Don Revie had left Elland Road to take the England job, having first been appointed by the Leeds board in March 1961, fifteen months after Shankly had arrived at Anfield. They were gutted to see him go. "But for the remarkable talents of Don Revie, it's odds-on that Leeds United would have forever remained a mediocre provincial team, meaning little to anyone, even in its West Yorkshire homeland where cricket and rugby league were always more important," argues fans website Mighty Leeds.

The similarities between the jobs Shankly and Revie did for Liverpool and Leeds United are unmistakable. Both won promotion, top-flight titles, and the first FA Cups and European silverware in the history of both clubs. They were friendly sparring partners rather than sworn enemies, and to both leave their positions within a week of each other perhaps had an appropriate symmetry to it.

Shanks did lead Liverpool out at Wembley for the Charity Shield that August before handing the reins over to Bob Paisley, but it was Revie's replacement Brian Clough, who'd last just 44 days as Leeds boss, who walked alongside him. A famous fracas resulting in Kevin Keegan and Billy Bremner being sent off marred the occasion. The Reds won on penalties – the first shoot-out in our history – and from there the clubs went in different directions.

Liverpool dominated English football for another 15 years, collecting four European Cups along the way. Leeds, after losing the 1975 European Cup final to Bayern Munich in Paris, faded into mid-table obscurity and were relegated in 1981/82.

Bar a few Premier League squabbles between Gerard Houllier's Reds and David O'Leary's Whites in the early 2000s over Champions League qualification, our rivalry has never quite been the same since. But for a decade there was none bigger, nor more intense, in English football.

Liverpool & Leeds 1964-74

Season	Liverpool	Leeds
1964/65	Seventh; FA Cup winners	Runners-up
1965/66	Champions	Runners-up
1966/67	Fifth	Fourth
1967/68	Third	Fourth: League Cup winners; Fairs Cup winners
1968/69	Runners-up	Champions
1969/70	Fifth	Runners-up
1970/71	Fifth	Runners-up; Fairs Cup winners
1971/72	Third	Runners-up; FA Cup winners
1972/73	Champions; UEFA Cup winners	Third
1973/74	Runners-up; FA Cup winners	Champions


PUKKA PIES
BETVICTOR
BETVICTOR
L.F.
CAROLINE WEIR
AGE: 21
NATIONALITY: SCOTTISH
2016 GAMES:
17+1 AS SUB
GOALS: 6
ASSISTS: 4
KATIE ZELEM
AGE: 20
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH
2016 GAMES:
10+7 AS SUB
GOALS: 6
ASSISTS: 2

THE GOAL GIRLS

Attacking midfielders Caroline Weir and Katie Zelem went into Liverpool Ladies' final game of the season as joint-top scorers with six apiece, and here they talk us through them

CAROLINE'S CORKERS

GOAL 1: 23 April 2016 v Sunderland (H)
Caroline opens her account with a close range finish but the Reds surrender a 2-0 lead to draw 2-2.
CAROLINE: My first goal wasn't the best I've scored this year! Shanice [Van De Sanden] had a shot which came back off the post and I was just standing in the right place and it literally hit me and went in. I didn't know too much about it so that was a lucky one.
KATIE: I think that was one of Caz's best of the season!

GOAL 2: 27 April 2016 v Chelsea (H)
A late rally sees Caroline give the Reds hope against the champions but the visitors hold on to record a 2-1 win.
CAROLINE: Niamh Charles had just come on as a substitute and she played a really good pass through. I think I was pretty much one-on-one with the keeper and I managed to just put it past her.
KATIE: Great description!

GOAL 3: 8 May 2016 v Chelsea (A)
Caroline fires home a low 20-yard free-kick but Chelsea expose the Reds' defensive frailties to complete a league double with a 6-3 victory.
CAROLINE: This one was a free-kick. I just hit it and it went in! I don't really study opponents goalkeepers when it comes to free-kicks. I tend to focus more on what I'm going to do. I was very happy to see this one go in but overall it wasn't our greatest hour.
KATIE: She's being very modest there. To be fair, she does practise her free-kicks a lot.

GOAL 4: 31 July 2016 v Arsenal (A)
A brilliant match-winning free-kick with 13 minutes remaining.
CAROLINE: I do like practising set-pieces and then if I get a chance in a game, I like to take them. To be fair I've not scored as many free-kicks before as I have this season. This one was a special goal because it came at an important time in the game with the score at 1-1 and it also came against one of my old teams in Arsenal. I knew which side of the goalkeeper [Sari van Veenendaal] I wanted to put it and it went pretty much where I intended. The main thing is that it gave us the lead in the game and we went on to win it. I'd say that this was my favourite goal this season because of all the circumstances around it.
KATIE: We had a lot of set-pieces






Weir's curled one!




planned out. For about a week we'd gone through things in training, saying: "You run here, you run here and you run here." Then when it came to it everybody said: "Caz, just hit it!"

GOAL 5: 9 October 2016 v Doncaster (A)
A left-footed curler after being teed up by Katie Zelem's pass.
KATIE: This was all about the assist!
CAROLINE: Zel passed to me (for once) and as I turned, it opened up for me and I shot into the corner.
KATIE: I passed to Caz after waiting for her to catch up! What a description again – I just shot the ball in!

GOAL 6: 9 October 2016 v Doncaster (A)
A long-range thunderbolt following a neat turn beyond a defender.
CAROLINE: The second one really was about the assist. It was a great ball into me by Sophie Ingle, who always finds us in pockets of space. I turned the defender and noticed the goalkeeper [Anna Moorhouse] was slightly to her right and managed to find the target with my shot.

KATIE'S CRACKERS

GOAL 1: 2 May 2016 v Notts County (A)
Pulls a goal back from the spot with five minutes left at Meadow Lane.
CAROLINE: This came after my penalty miss... *[Caroline had missed from a spot-kick earlier in the game]*.
KATIE: Oh yes, I took over the role! We were three-nil down and didn't have much hope left in the game, but we pulled it back to 3-2 and we looked like picking up a point by the final whistle. We started poorly and didn't defend too well in that game so to get the two goals really quickly was good but obviously not enough. These are the games we look back on with frustration and I don't think we'd drop points like that nowadays because we've come a long way during the season.

With regards the first goal, we should start off by saying that Caz's penalty wasn't just high, it was pretty wide as well, so I think she was happy to take a back-seat after that! She was practically throwing the ball at me when Emma [Lundh] was fouled and we were awarded another pen!
CAROLINE: That was a real bad day for me. The penalty was embarrassing.

Caroline celebrates a goal (above) while Katie battles for the ball (below)



"ALTHOUGH ME AND ZEL HAVE BEEN THE MAIN SCORERS IT'S DUE TO THE PLAYERS AROUND US"

KATIE: Alex [Greenwood] also had a look at taking it but she'd come on as a sub and I'm not a great fan of people who have come on taking penalties. I always think that's a bit dodgy. The penalty-taker is usually decided before the game but we're never going to have a mass brawl over it. If Alex had really wanted it I'd have told her to go for it, and I'm sure she'd have said the same in reverse.
CAROLINE: I was on penalties up until then!
KATIE: Being serious, I don't think Caz had ever missed a penalty in her life until this season. We had seen her score loads in training but then just before the start of the season she missed one in a friendly against Sheffield and everyone gasped: "Caz Weir missed a pen!" because we'd seen her score so many in training.
CAROLINE: Rosie White scored the rebound off it in that game but that week in training it was really in my head. I was practising them and everyone was ripping me for missing and then when we got to the Notts County game perhaps I'd been over-thinking it, but it was really in my head.
KATIE: Even so, all the girls were still really confident Caz would score.

Interview: William Hughes

CAROLINE: Unfortunately they are probably still looking for the football!
KATIE: So I took the second one we were awarded and managed to convert it. I just tend to pick my spot and go for it.

GOAL 2: 2 May 2016 v Notts County (A)
Sets up a frantic finish with her second goal in three minutes, a neat drive across keeper Carly Telford.
KATIE: My second goal in that game came after a good pass from Kate Longhurst. They were fairly unorganised at the back after our first goal and I found myself in a pocket of space. I think I actually slipped as I struck it but it went in the corner.
CAROLINE: A good finish on the angle.
KATIE: I had a half-chance to equalise too right at the end but put it over. It just was not to be that day.

GOAL 3: 8 May 2016 v Chelsea (A)
Opens the scoring with a left-footed piledriver from the edge of the penalty area just two minutes into the contest.
KATIE: If anything we almost scored too soon in that game. We were talking about it in training recently. We went away to the reigning champions and maybe thought: wow, we've cracked this haven't we, 1-0 up already. But they are a good side and our defensive shape wasn't what it is now so they were able to put goals past us. To be fair we've got a good attacking team so we were also likely to put goals past them, but we hadn't found a good balance at that point.

My goal was a little left-footer which I was quite happy with. My left boot actually broke in that game and everyone was saying 'Oh it's because you actually kicked the ball with your left foot!' I changed them at half-time!

GOAL 4: 18 May 2016 v Sunderland (A)
Wraps up a 4-0 win in the North East with a tidy finish from a Shanice van de Sanden cross.
KATIE: Shan crossed it and at the time I thought it was a bit behind me but then I thought I've just sprinted this whole way so I'm not taking a touch...
CAROLINE: Interesting use of the word 'sprinted'!
KATIE: It wasn't quite a Caz free-kick but I was happy with it. It was an okay finish. It was a good game for us as it came 10 days after losing 6-3 at Chelsea. We wanted a reaction from that game and earlier in the season we had also drawn 2-2 against Sunderland after being 2-0 up, so it was quite a big thing for us to hold the lead and keep a clean sheet on the back of shipping six.

Zelem trying to chip the goalie… oh I say!













GOAL 5: 1 September 2016 v Reading (A)
A late winner with a chip from the left-hand edge of the penalty-area which deceived Royals' keeper Mary Earps.
KATIE: I'm not sure if it was a shot or a cross but I'm claiming I saw the keeper off her line and was aiming for top bins! It was one of those where by the time you've hit it you're not really sure what's going on and the next minute I was getting my head piled on! Like Caz's free-kick at Arsenal, the most important thing was that it gave us those three points we needed to keep pushing up the league.

GOAL 6: 25 Sept 2016 v Birmingham (A)
Equalises from the penalty-spot but the Reds are edged out 2-1 at Sutton Coldfield – their first league defeat in nine matches.
KATIE: I went the same way with my penalty against Birmingham as I had done against Notts County. To be honest I know the keeper, Sophie Baggaley, and I also knew that she knew what I like to do with penalties! I was looking at her as I took it.

At the end of the game she said to me: "I knew you were going that way but I didn't know if you'd bluff and go the other way." If you hit them hard and in the corner then the keeper is going to find it hard to save anyway. We had just come back from camp with England Under-20s and we took maybe 15 penalties while we were there. Our manager Mo Marley made everyone take them in case of a future shoot-out. I must have taken ten against Sophie alone, so she knew my preferred side but in training I'd also mixed it up a little bit so I was hoping she wouldn't remember!

Are you both pleased with your goals return this year?
KATIE: Definitely. It's been pleasing to come off the bench and get a couple at Sunderland and Reading too. Our team-mate Laura Coombs is a bit of a statto and she's said to me: "Zel, your goals-per-game ratio is really good!"

We've played a lot differently this year than we have in the past. We've had a lot more freedom whereas last year we had a more rigid number nine. This year Coombsy's high up the pitch and everyone's been rotating. We have looked really fluent in attack so to then finish the chances has been good, especially with Caz and I being so young in the team. It's nice to prove ourselves when we have the opportunities.
CAROLINE: Yes, I think so. We've scored a lot of goals this year. I have enjoyed playing as a 'ghost nine' and although Zel and I have been the main scorers, that's only due to the players around us. Overall we're fairly happy with the goals and it gives us a good platform to build on for next year.


TEAM
TALK

A considered Q&A with Peter Krawietz, second assistant-coach to Jürgen Klopp at LFC

You've been in England just over a year now – has that time gone quickly?

Very, very, very, very quickly. It has been 12 months with a lot of changes. For us the wind of change was blowing around our houses *[laughs]*. Professionally and in our private lives it was all-change.

My family had to settle over here. I have two boys aged eight and six. They moved over in the summer. It was a big thing for them because they are still learning the language even now. Before they left Germany they had some English lessons but it's very different when you arrive and are surrounded by people speaking it. But they are understanding more and more and we are very proud of how well they are doing. They both like sport. One of them plays football at the Academy. The other one likes tennis so that has helped them to settle in.

In terms of work it was so much new stuff for me to learn about: the club, the language, the league, the players and everything else. It has been intense and interesting.

Of course we had to analyse the situation we found at first and find out about everything from the organisation around the squad to our way of playing. We had to look at what is possible and where or how we might need to adapt our conviction of playing football or how can we develop our style here to make it successful.

It can't be easy to transplant coaching systems from one country to another...

Of course not. That's not possible. You have to adapt to each situation and the new players you have in your squad. You have your conviction of how you want to play football; you don't need to change this every five minutes but you might need to change some things to adapt to the new situation you are in. You have to handle it in the best way you can to try to give you success in the future.

A football season without a winter break – did that take some getting used to?

Definitely. It was all new for us and a lot of work. As a coaching staff it was a completely new situation to what we had known previously, but for the majority of the players it obviously wasn't. They'd all done it before.



With the boss and fellow assistant Zeljko Buvac

We played through Christmas and I think we played every game we could have around that January: we had FA Cup replays, two legs of a League Cup semi-final that went to penalties… We seemed to go the distance every time. It was new and we learned plenty from it. We'll try to use that new knowledge now and in the future.

Did you always want to be a football coach?

I took the decision at the age of 17 because I started to train a small team of kids who were five or six years old. At that time it was not a professional decision or a career decision. As a player I was usually a defensive midfielder or a defender, never a striker. But if I was picking a good team Peter Krawietz would not have been in it because I was too slow and not skilful enough.

I quickly recognised that I wasn't good enough, but I also recognised that I understood the game much better than I could play. So I made the choice to go into coaching and it happened from there. As I progressed there came a point when I had to think properly about what I wanted to do. Did I want to have a career in coaching or do something else? I started as a scout for Mainz 05, that was my first contract with a professional football club. It was interesting in the scouting department, I tried to improve and help the team where I could.

Then when Jürgen was going to Dortmund he asked me to join him as assistant coach doing similar things [to what I had been doing at Mainz]. I had to think about that and the advantages and disadvantages of it. But it was a quick decision. I said: 'Let's try it'. Thankfully it wasn't the wrong decision.

What's the process behind switching a player to a 'new' position, for example Firmino as centre-forward or Milner at left-back?

Once again it's a process. You analyse your squad. So let's say for example we needed a second full-back, as one player in each position is not enough. We needed Alberto [Moreno] and somebody else. You look at the transfer market and ask can we get this player or this player and how much would we have to pay? Then we say: do we want to pay this amount of money or is there another solution already here? In the end we spoke to Milly to see how he felt about it. That way we came to a solution that has been very good. It's the same each time we try something like this.

We regularly see you making notes during games – can you tell us what you write down?

I do this because we use video-analysis during half-time. Therefore we need the time, or time-code, of an incident in the game so I take a short note on what happens in various situations. Then we can look back over the game and see what kind of issue or point there is to make about that moment. I search for typical situations where we could have done this or this or this.

In the end we are able to show the team something that we think might help them in the second half. It's about trying to show them what is happening around them, not just in their particular position or area of the field. It's about





"NO MATTER THE RESULT THERE ARE ALWAYS THINGS TO DO AND TALK ABOUT THE NEXT DAY"

showing them the overview, the overall picture on the pitch. Immediately after the end of the game we obviously don't go through that stuff as the final whistle is the final whistle. There is nothing you can do to change the result. You have to accept it.

If you have had some problems then you need to take time, reflect and talk about the things that happened and how we can do something different in similar situations in the future. But, no matter the result, there are always things to do and talk about maybe the next day or the day after that.

How much of being a coach is about learning something new every day, every week or every season?

I made the decision many years ago that I always wanted to be a person who is learning all of the time, especially about football which is my profession. I think this is a very important attitude.

Football is never boring. It's a learning system, it's always developing and you have to try to find a systematical solution for each subject or situation that arises. Then there will be another solution to that from a different coach and you have to adapt to it again. That's intense but also very interesting.

What have you learned so far this season?

We've had some good results in the first few months but you can always do better. If you look at the details after each game you will get ideas about how you can do things in a better way. You can imagine how it [the performance] could be perfect and we never tire of trying to improve and be better. I think that has to be your approach because as much as you learn, opponents learn about you too. They will adapt and we have to do the same.

At Borussia Dortmund it was clear there was a great team-spirit – is it similar at Liverpool?

We've tried to create an atmosphere among the squad which is always really competitive. As a team we know that the only way we can reach anywhere [successful] is by working together. We try to 'live' this in our coaching team, to be a good example of how you can all work effectively as a group. Six, eight or ten of us will always see more than just one or two. We can have more ideas if we all work together, discuss and find the best solutions. That's what we try to do.

We try to show the players the same too. For them it's really important. TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More, is what we always stress to them. It's an essential attitude because we aren't playing tennis, we're not playing an individual sport – we are playing football as a team.



It's all about the team insists Krawietz

When we spoke in February you said you missed the bread back in Germany – have you solved that now?

Yes! Mona [Nemmer, the club's head of nutrition] has sorted that for me and it's really good!

It all starts at Melwood

Words: John Hynes



Neil Mellor

Klopp's players are fit, smart and stepping up to the challenge

Every Liverpool fan will have felt optimistic going into the season in August. But as we reach the November international-break, having seen huge entertainment and exciting football, you could argue that the Reds' start has exceeded expectation levels.

It's hugely enjoyable to see Liverpool in the mix and genuinely deserving to be there rather than feeling like there's already too much to do, to challenge. Liverpool deserve to be where they are right now and the feeling that we'll stay involved at the top is genuine.

Leicester City showed last year that winning the Premier League is possible if everything clicks and now you have to remember that Manchester City, Chelsea and Manchester United all appointed new managers. At Liverpool we've had Jürgen Klopp in place since last October so whereas the likes of Guardiola, Conte and Mourinho are still trying to stamp their identity on their new clubs, Klopp has already got his identity across to his players.

He's installed a collective effort, a real togetherness here. Leicester proved last season that if you are collectively strong as a team it can lead to success, and as a Liverpool fan I feel part of where Klopp is trying to take us. A lot of fans of other clubs would love to see the style of football Liverpool are playing and I'm looking forward to every game at the moment because we're so entertaining to watch.

Twelve different players scored in Liverpool's opening 13 games this season and that is hugely encouraging because when Klopp came in there was an over-reliance on individuals, notably Daniel Sturridge, to provide goals. That's no longer the case. Sturridge hadn't scored a Premier League goal by the end of October yet Liverpool were the joint-leading scorers with Man City on 24 so it shows what a collective effort it has been.

We're now in a position where if Philippe Coutinho, Roberto Firmino or Sadio Mane don't perform in a certain game we've got other players throughout the team who will step up. That team effort underpins Klopp's philosophy.

There will be testing times to come: injuries, suspensions, fixture congestion if we progress in the cups and Mane going away to the African Cup of Nations. But we're in a better position now to deal with such issues.

Yes, Liverpool need to keep more clean-sheets. But you have to remember that we have a new keeper in Loris Karius, a new central-defensive partnership in Dejan Lovren and Joel Matip, and James Milner doing a job at left-back. It will take time and patience for the back-four and Karius to forge a good understanding, something that will be done at Melwood.

Having no European obligations this year gives Klopp more time to work with his players, and while history shows that only a couple of clubs have won the Premier League during seasons when they've not also been in Europe, I see it as an advantage because it keeps the players fresher.

Last season Liverpool had 14 Europa League games on Thursday nights and played on the Sunday after 12 of them. We only won four of those games so, given the intensity of English football compared to other leagues around Europe, it shows how draining that can be. If you're not at your best due to a lack of recovery time or preparation, you get found out in the Premier League especially given the way Klopp wants Liverpool to play.

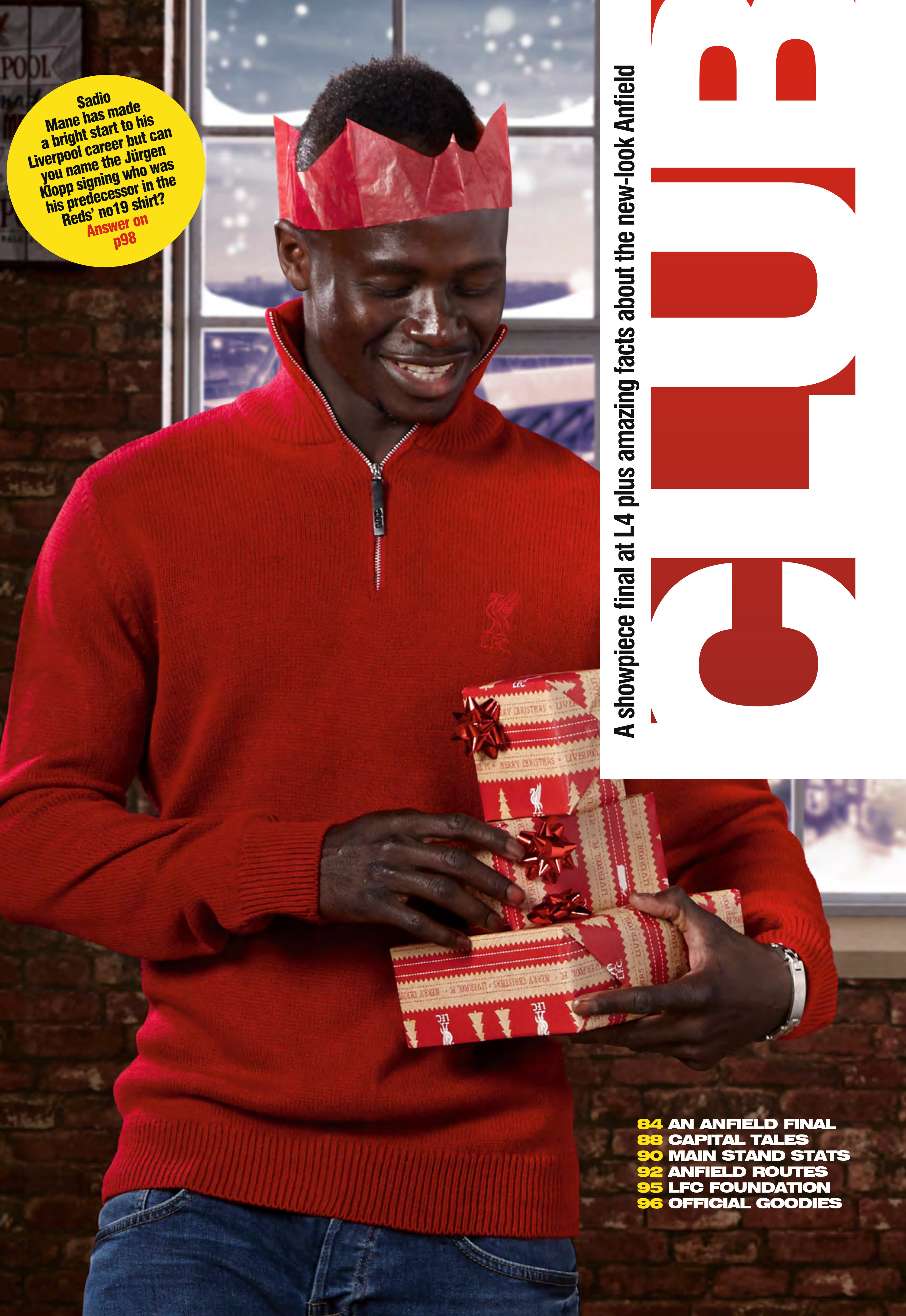
"THERE WILL BE TESTING TIMES BUT WE ARE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DEAL WITH THEM"

His players have to be both fit and intelligent with a great example being the run Emre Can made when Coutinho got the ball before Can opened the scoring at Palace. It was an example of a player taking responsibility and led to the kind of goal that has been common in Liverpool's start to the season.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33



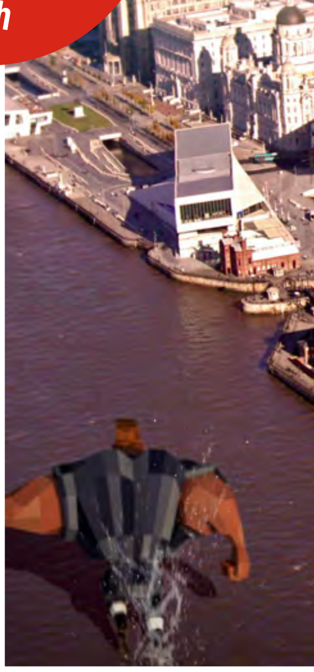
Emre Can: a textbook goal at Palace


CLUB
A showpiece final at L4 plus amazing facts about the new-look Anfield
Sadio Mane has made a bright start to his Liverpool career but can you name the Jürgen Klopp signing who was his predecessor in the Reds' no19 shirt?
Answer on p98
84 AN ANFIELD FINAL
88 CAPITAL TALES
90 MAIN STAND STATS
92 ANFIELD ROUTES
95 LFC FOUNDATION
96 OFFICIAL GOODIES

POWER PLAY

Anfield is in awesome shape to host one of rugby league's showcase events this month





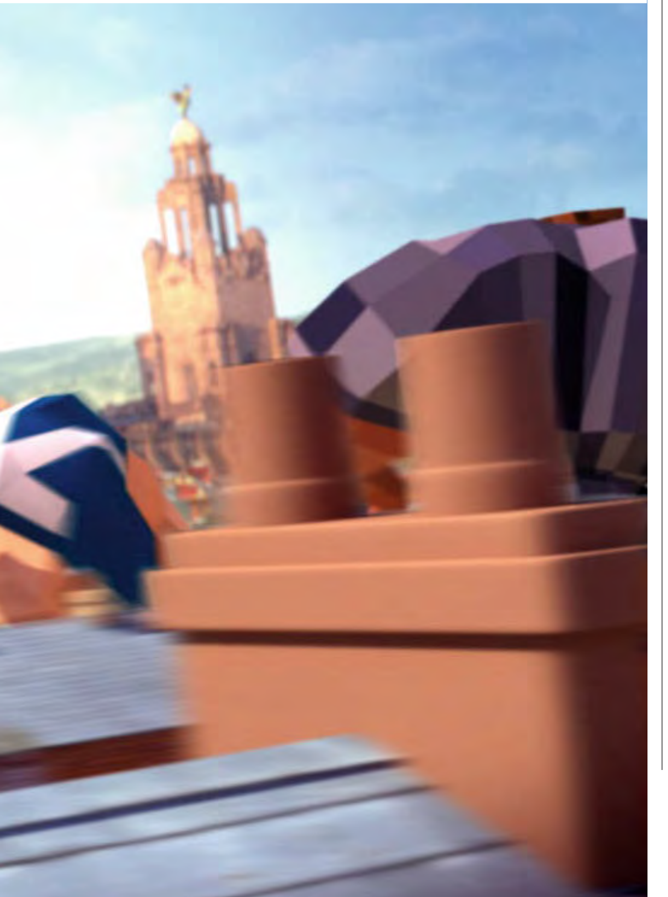
Anfield hosts rugby league for the first time in almost two decades when the Ladbrokes Four Nations tournament reaches its conclusion on Sunday 20 November.

The new-look stadium hosts the finest rugby league players in the world when the final takes place in L4. The competition sees England and Scotland take on Australia and New Zealand in a round-robin format before the top two sides battle it out for the trophy last won by the Kiwis in 2014.

Hosting the final at the home of the Reds has captured the imagination of those involved in all four nations. The England squad includes a number of keen Liverpool FC fans including Warrington full-back Stefan Ratchford, Huddersfield Giants winger Jermaine McGilvary and Wigan Warriors stand-off George Williams.

Trailer images courtesy of BBC







The tournament's Anfield launch

Williams' Warriors team-mate Liam Farrell is also hoping England will be involved in the showpiece fixture. The second-rower goes into the tournament in fine form after winning the Harry Sunderland Trophy for his man-of-the-match performance in last month's Grand Final success against Warrington Wolves at Old Trafford.

"I had never been to Anfield before the media launch for the tournament but my first impressions of it were really good," he explains. "To be honest, it's one of the best grounds I've been to. If we can play well enough and try and get a chance to come and play here in the final, that would be a really big thing for us. I don't think rugby league has been here too many times before so to play at this special ground would be huge.

"We are all looking forward to competing in the tournament. It is a long season but we play all year to be involved in these kind of things, and the Four Nations is one of the best competitions rugby league has, so to be involved is fantastic. We had a good Test series against New Zealand last year and to be involved with England again is fantastic and hopefully we can do well in it."

Australia went into the event as slight favourites and their legendary coach Mal Meninga believes the prospect of a final at Anfield will be a big incentive to the men in green-and-gold: "The final being at Anfield is a carrot as far as the players are concerned – they want to play here. This event is about making international rugby league exciting again and to be able to play at a venue like this is very important."

"ANFIELD IS ONE OF THE BEST VENUES I'VE BEEN TO, AND TO PLAY HERE WOULD BE HUGE"

One of Meninga's key men will be front-row forward Matt Scott, who is co-captain of Australian NRL side North Queensland Cowboys. "One of the best things about playing in these tournaments is having the chance to play on a field like this," he says.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I still have very fond memories of playing at Old Trafford in the World Cup final a few years ago, which was probably one of the best experiences of my life. If we get the opportunity to play in the final here I've no doubt it will be exactly the same.

"This stadium is second-to-none and the facilities here are just ridiculous compared to what we're used to at home. Not only that but the crowds that you play in front of over here are, in my opinion, the best in the world. The way they support the game and how vocal they are, it's one of the best experiences you can get as a rugby league player."

Scotland coach Steve McCormack is also delighted that the final is being staged in Merseyside. Coach of the Scottish national side for 12 years, his CV also includes a four-year stint at Widnes Vikings. "I love this area as the passion for sport here is incredible. Anfield is an iconic stadium and just has an aura around it.

"I've been here quite a few times watching Wigan Athletic as a fan and I just love the place, so to have the final here couldn't have worked out better for the tournament.

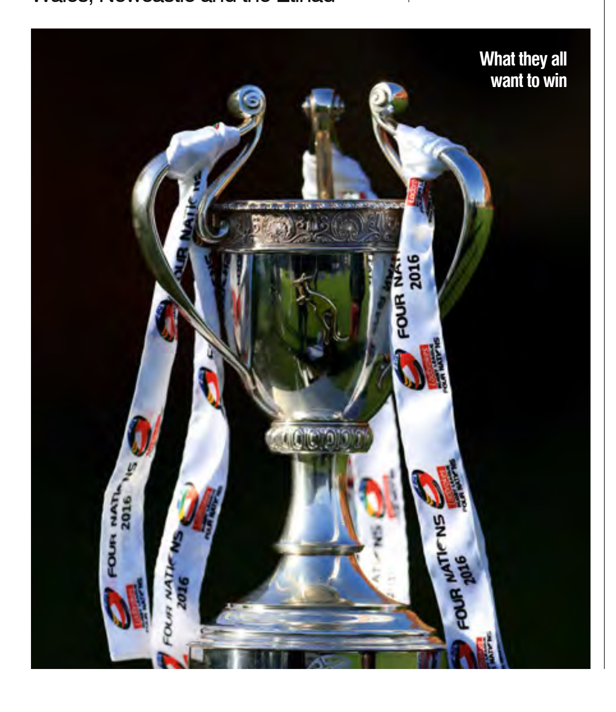
"It's a fantastic venue and I think there are a lot of comparisons between



England square up to New Zealand on Oct 29 in Huddersfield

this club and people around rugby league in that they both have very hard-working, very humble people."

Every season the Super League stages a full round of fixtures at a single venue and McCormack would love to see the 'Magic Weekend' come to Liverpool. "One hundred per cent. Magic Weekend has been to Scotland, Wales, Newcastle and the Etihad



What they all want to win

"WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HOST SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS RUGBY LEAGUE MATCH"

in Manchester so I think it would be brilliant if it came here at some stage in the future."

Steve admits that his side, who qualified for the tournament by virtue of beating France in the final of the 2014 European Cup, are huge outsiders. "We're massive underdogs. I think what we're going to do in these few weeks is one of the biggest challenges in team-sport for a country of our resources and playing-pool, but we've earned the right to be here. We've done well in our previous tournaments and we're expecting to have a good crack at this one."

Meanwhile, New Zealand will be aiming to retain the Four Nations trophy and forward Greg Eastwood has special reason to help the Kiwis make the final according to captain Jesse Bromwich. "Greg is a die-hard Liverpool fan so he will be loving it. He's been to a few games at Anfield so he'll definitely be desperate to get here and have a run around! The pitch is like a carpet. I've never seen anything like it so hopefully we can be out there playing on it in the final."

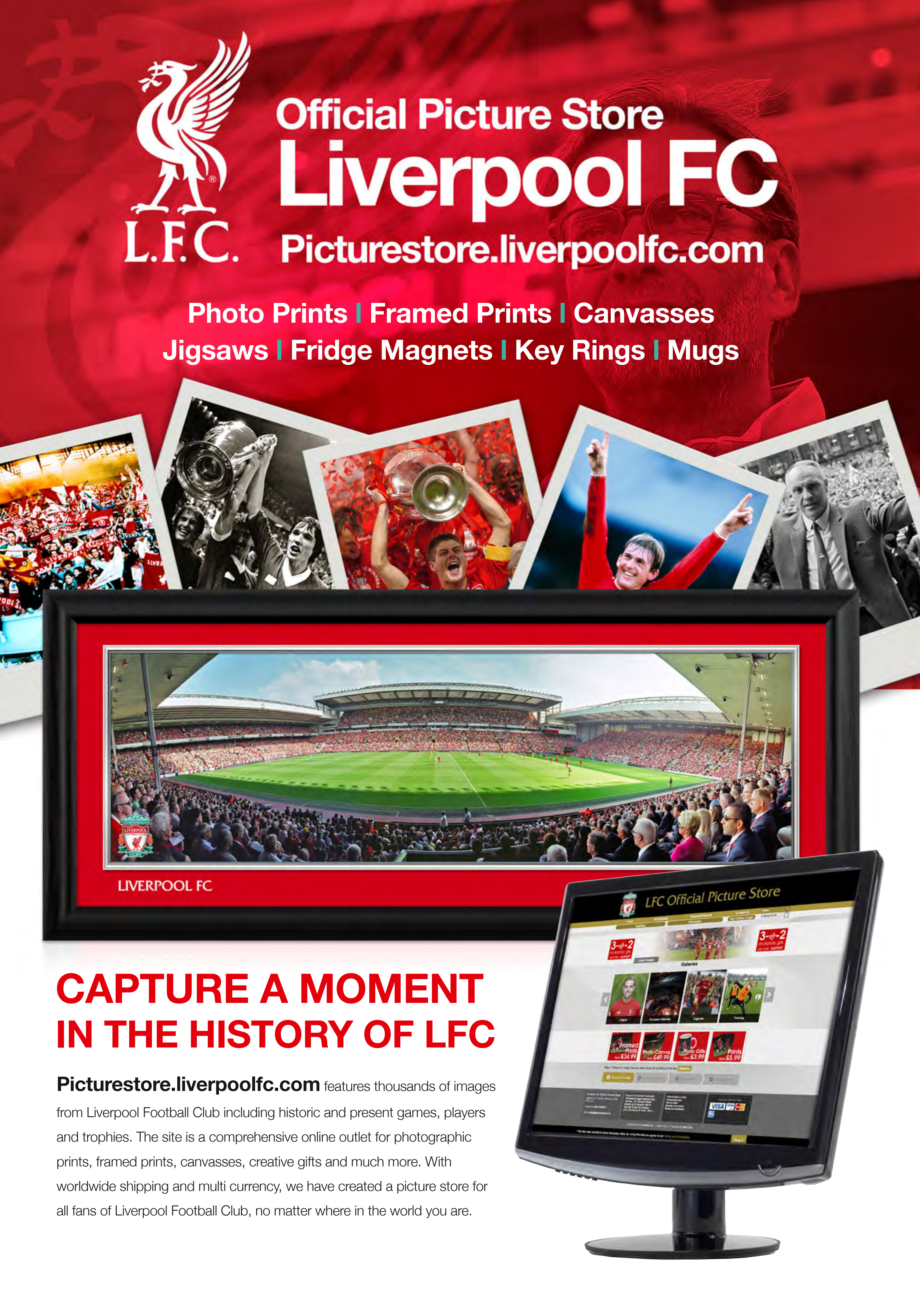
Liverpool FC officials are thrilled to be able to stage the showpiece final at Anfield. Andrew Parkinson, club operations director, said: "We are delighted to be able to host such a prestigious match in the rugby league calendar – we hope our increased capacity stadium will be the perfect backdrop.

"Anfield has played host to many landmark matches in its time and I'm sure the Four Nations final will be no different."

For more information about the events and purchasing tickets, please visit **www.eticketing.co.uk/rle.**

THE FINAL ON THE BBC

BBC One has live coverage of the Four Nations final at Anfield on Sunday 20 November 2016 from 2pm to 4.30pm, with all the post-match analysis on the BBC Red Button from 4.30pm to 5pm (Four Nations Final Forum). You can also listen on 5 Live Sports Extra from 2pm to 4.30pm.



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LEGENDS IN LONDON

Rushie, Ged the Red and Gary Mac are making a capital trip to support a Foundation fundraiser





Liverpool FC legends Ian Rush, Gary McAllister and former manager Gerard Houllier are heading for the capital to support the Liverpool FC Foundation's first-ever fundraising event in London.

On Thursday 17 November 2016 the club's official charity is hosting its inaugural LFC Legends in London event, a prestigious dinner held at the Rosewood London Hotel, Covent Garden.

The Legends will take part in a question-and answer-session which promises to provide a fascinating insight into their time at Liverpool FC, including Houllier's treble-winning season in charge, Ian Rush's goalscoring highlights and Gary Mac's last-gasp derby winner in 2001.

On the night, guests will also be given a preview of the Foundation's new strategy and brand, and be invited to take part in a live auction bidding on exclusive LFC auction lots.

All proceeds raised from the event will fund the charity's programmes and partnerships which aim to improve the health and life-chances of children and young people in Merseyside and beyond.

Andrea Cooper, head of the LFC Foundation, said: "This is the first time we have held a fundraising event of this kind and we're very much looking forward to having three incredible legends in one place, for one night only, while raising valuable funding for Foundation programmes."

For more information on the event and to purchase tickets, please email **foundationevents@liverpoolfc.com.**





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Anfield Infographics

Everyone loves the expanded Main Stand and here's everything you need to know about it...

THE NEW FLOODLIGHTS = x198



BULBS AT 2kw

THE MAIN STAND PUBLIC REALM IS APPROX THE SIZE OF 2 FOOTBALL PITCHES

THE COMBINED INTERNAL FLOOR SPACES IN THE MAIN STAND ARE 5x LARGER THAN THE PITCH

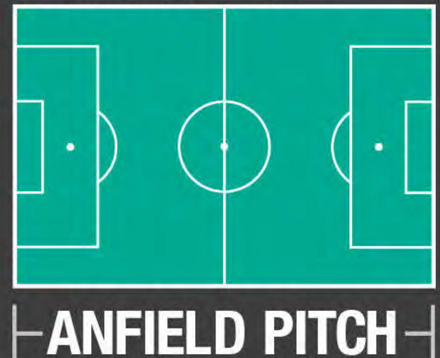
760 PANES OF GLASS FITTED IN THE MAIN STAND

IF THEY WERE PLACED END TO END WOULD STRETCH 423 METRES

4x FURTHER LENGTH OF THE







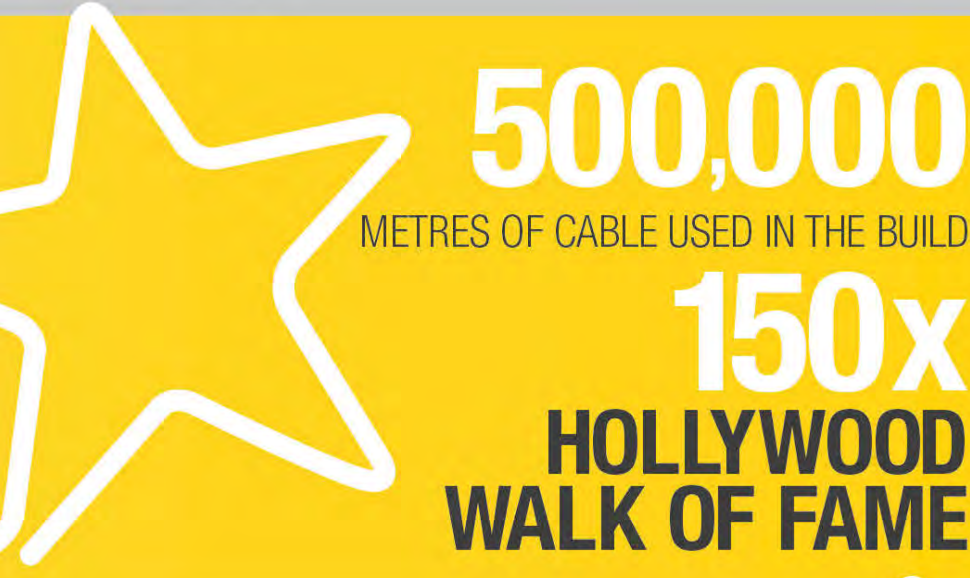
ANFIELD PITCH

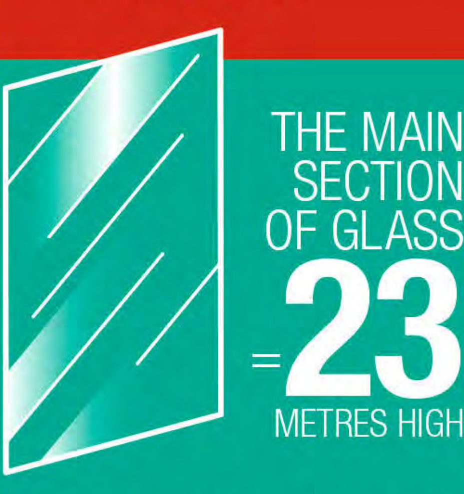


THE MAIN STAND IS ONE OF THE LARGEST ALL-SEATER SINGLE STAND'S IN EUROPEAN FOOTBALL

8,500 ADDITIONAL SEATS

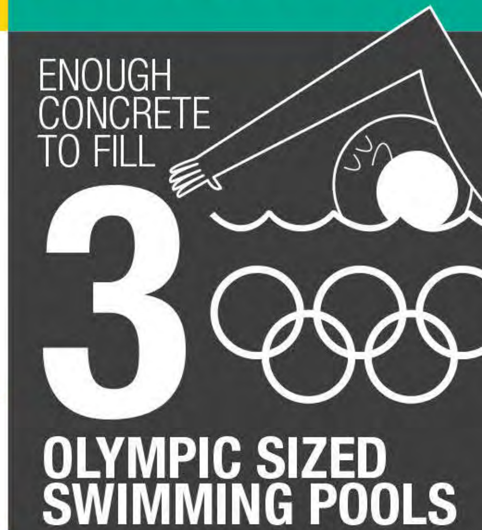
& PREMIUM FACILITIES FOR FANS INSIDE THE STAND





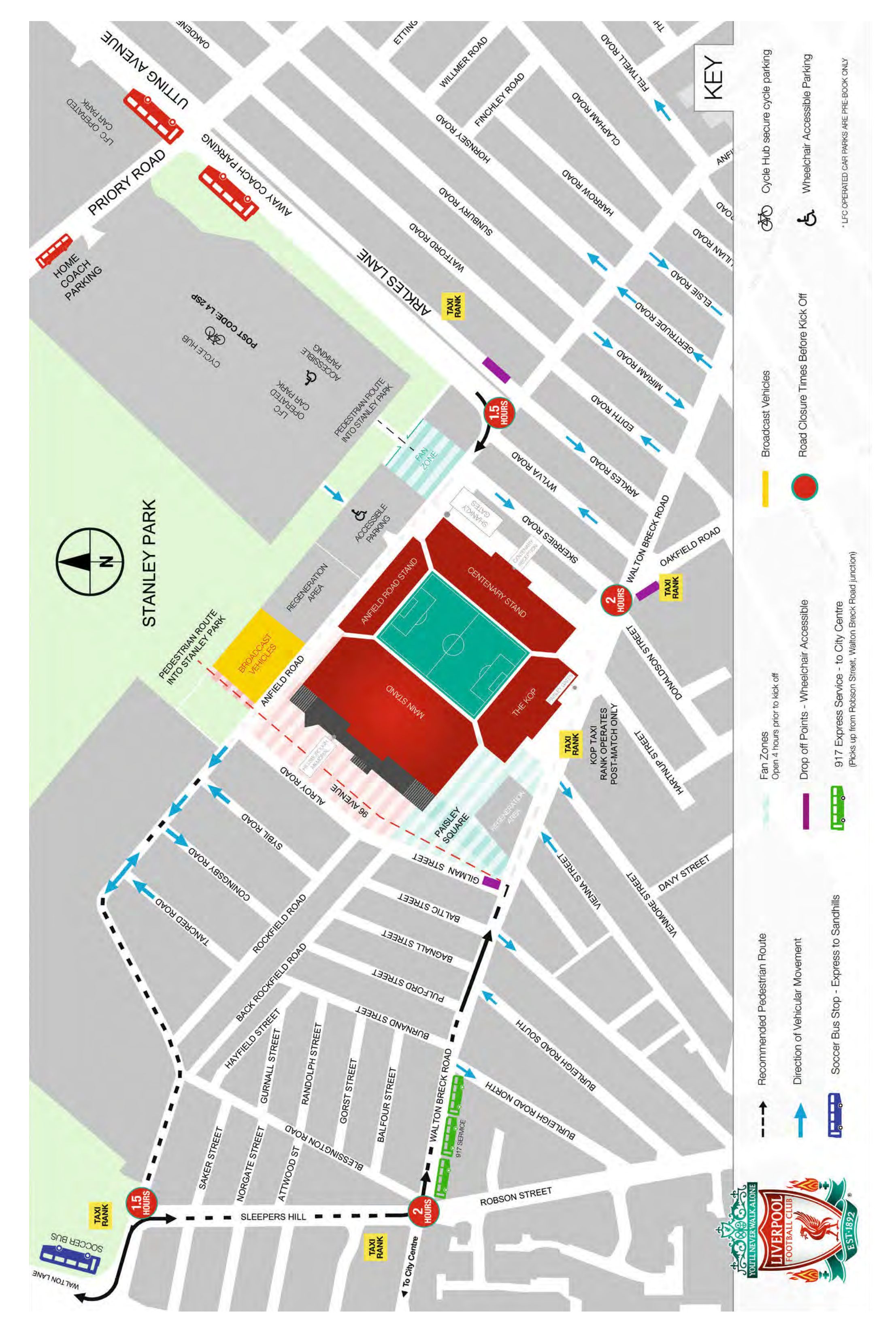
TALLER THAN THE **ANFIELD ROAD STAND**





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Simon Mignolet with youngsters at Anfield

SUPPORT & BELIEVE

Reds stars out in force to support Liverpool FC Foundation in plenty of local projects

Players from both the men's and ladies' teams have been getting involved with Liverpool FC Foundation activities recently, offering priceless advice to local youngsters and encouraging participation in some excellent programmes.

Emre Can and Daniel Sturridge were on hand at Melwood to welcome Liverpool FC Foundation College students as a reward for their great start to the new academic year. The two Reds stars were quizzed on a host of topics including the emergence of sport-science in football, the use of heart-monitors and fitness-tracking systems.

The students enrolled at the college in September as they look to follow in the footsteps of 35 graduates currently at UK and USA universities and seven who have progressed into professional football, and there's more information at www.lfcfoundationcollege.com.

Over at Anfield goalie Simon Mignolet shared life-experiences with young people taking part in the new Premier League Works scheme delivered by LFC Foundation in partnership with the PFA and Prince's Trust. Based at Reducate in the Kop stand, it provides 18 to 25-year-olds with support to develop their personal and social skills and make a positive transition back into education, training or employment.

Liverpool Ladies duo Shannon Beckwith and Emilie Revitt have also been busy, visiting schools in the North West during Girls' Football Week to promote the women's game alongside LFC Foundation. Shannon visited Anfield Sports Community Centre and Holly Lodge School while Emilie was at Cowley High International College in St Helens the next day.

Meanwhile Liverpool FC Foundation's Premier League Kicks team were victorious at this year's North West Regional Kicks Tournament, taking home the winner's trophy. The seven-strong team took on Stoke City, Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers and Blackpool before beating Bolton Wanderers 3-0 in the final at Wigan's Youth Zone. Sixteen-year-old Leon Arnasalam from the programme's Toxteth session scored a hat-trick, which also earned him the player of the tournament award.

"I am really proud of all our Kicks participants and the fantastic performance they gave in this tournament," said Andrea Cooper, head of Liverpool FC Foundation.



Girls' Football Week was a huge success

LIVERPOOL FC FOUNDATION IS THE OFFICIAL CHARITY OF LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB. WE DELIVER A RANGE OF INITIATIVES THAT INSPIRE PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO MAKE POSITIVE CHANGE HAPPEN FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES. FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @LFCFOUNDATION



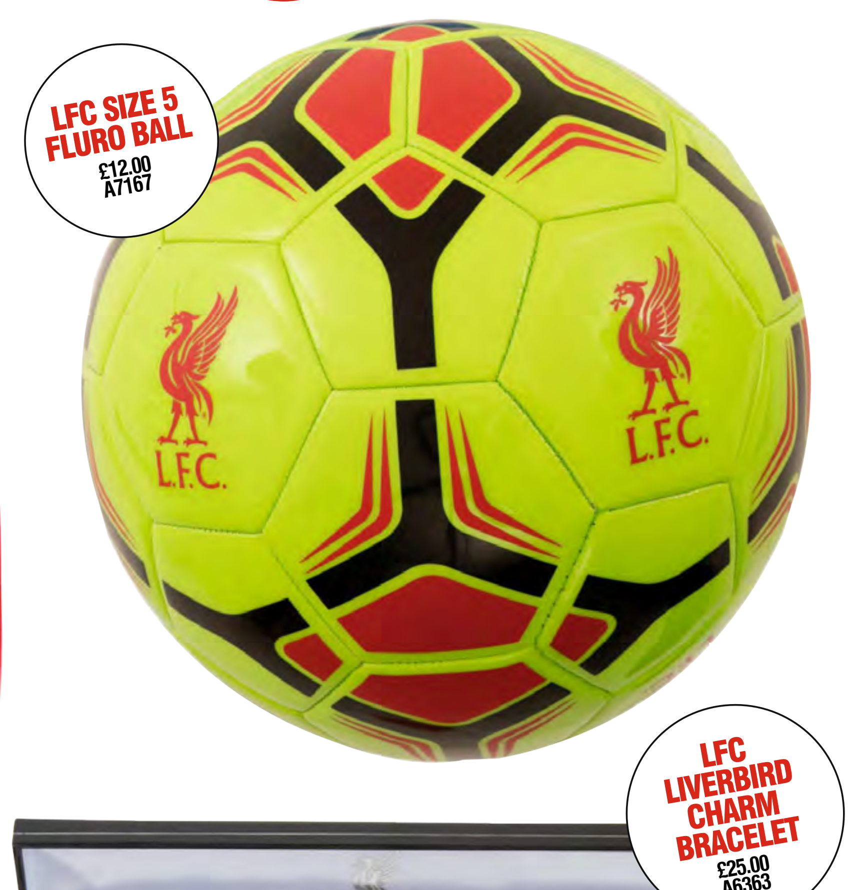


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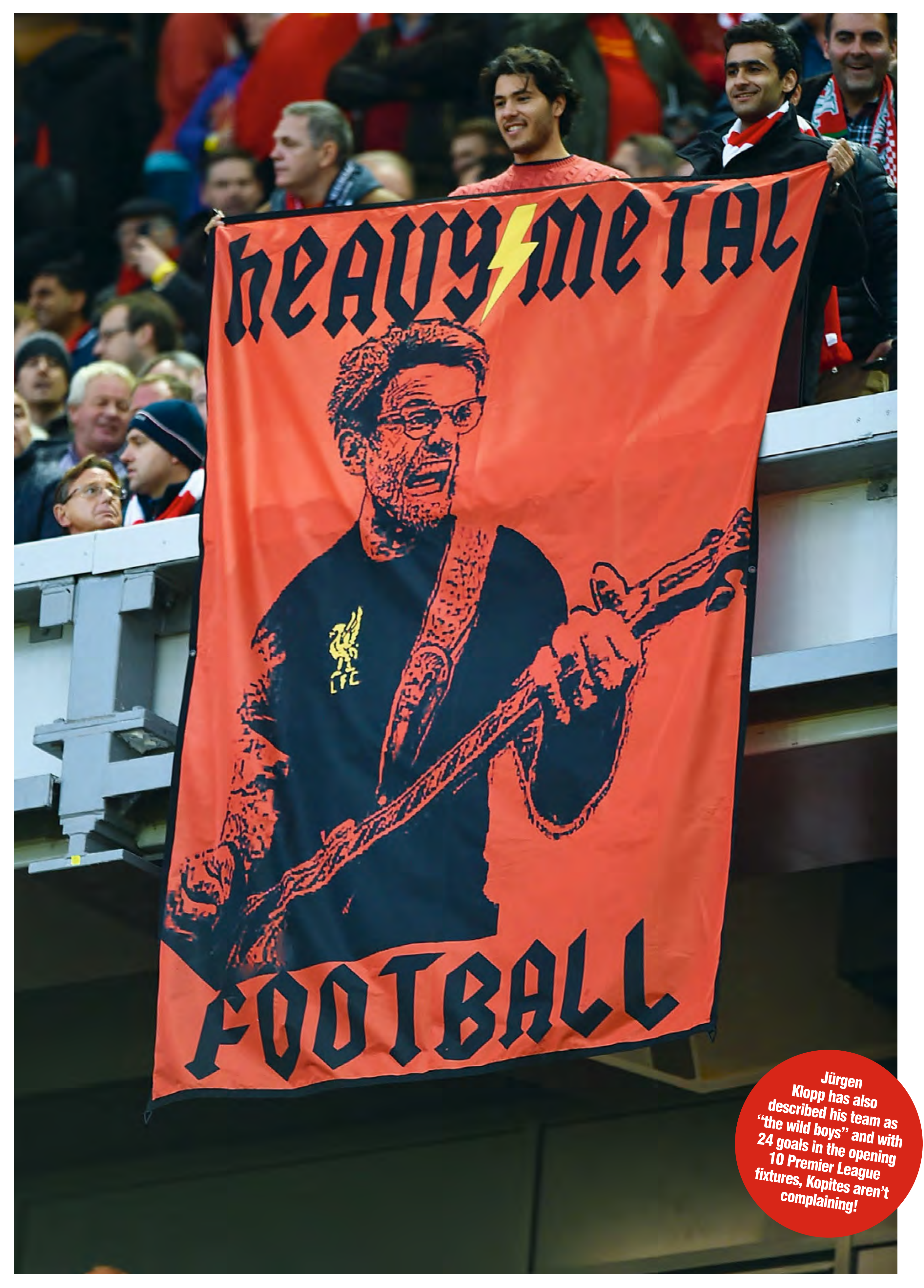
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Jürgen Klopp has also described his team as "the wild boys" and with 24 goals in the opening 10 Premier League fixtures, Kopites aren't complaining!

QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p9: The West Bromwich Albion game on Saturday 22 October which saw 53,218 in attendance; **FOOTBALL p19:** The answer is 10 – James Milner (24 games as captain), Jordan Henderson (23), Lucas Leiva (8), Kolo Toure (2), Joe Allen (1), Christian Benteke (1), Jose Enrique (1), Jon Flanagan (1), Mamadou Sakho (1), and Martin Skrtel (1). **CLUB p83:** Prior to Sadio Mane, Liverpool's no19 shirt was worn by defender Steven Caulker who was signed on loan from Queens Park Rangers back in January 2016.